

## Kabariti leaves for UAE, Bahrain today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti leaves on official visits to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain today (Monday) in the first such visit by a Jordanian foreign minister to these countries after the Gulf crisis. Mr. Kabariti, in comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said his visit was aimed at "clearing the Arab atmosphere and pave the way for collective Arab action in the interests of the Arab Nation." Mr. Kabariti said he was making the visit in response to invitations extended to him by his UAE and Bahraini counterparts. Mr. Kabariti, who took office on Jan. 8 in the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, has already visited Cairo and Tunis to advance Jordan's efforts for Arab reconciliation and heal the rift caused by the Gulf crisis. He was successful in arranging a visit to Jordan by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Jan. 21 for the first time since the Gulf crisis.

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## Arab League plans meeting on Somalia

AIRO (AFP) — League is planning to organise an international meeting on ending the conflict between warring clans in Somalia before U.N. troops pull out in March, a leading official said Sunday. League Secretary-General Iqbal Abdul Meguid told journalists that invitations had been sent to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali as well as all the Somali actions in the conflict and to concerned countries. He added that the league would not forward "suggestions on ways of peacefully solving the Somali crisis." Last year two delegations from the pan-Arab organisation visited Somalia in a vain bid to reconcile the factions.

## Israeli firm finds oil west of Dead Sea

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli oil exploration company has found crude oil just west of the Dead Sea but it is not yet known whether it is of commercial quantity, an energy ministry spokesman said on Sunday. The find was made by a state-controlled Israeli National Oil Company, Hani. Shares in other oil exploration companies traded in the Tel Aviv bourse, up 10 per cent on the news. Drilling at the site, called Tzuk Tamur, will continue for at least another month to determine whether the find is of commercial value, the ministry spokesman said.

## Russian embassy in Yemen attacked

SANAA (AP) — The Russian embassy was attacked here last week in an act linked to the Chechen war, but no injuries were reported. Two hand grenades were hurled into the walled compound in the centre of the capital on Jan. 22, an embassy diplomat said Sunday. He refused to give his name. Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency Sunday quoted Minister-Counselor Leonid Rogov saying one of the grenades exploded, shattering windows and causing some structural damage. ITAR-TASS said newspapers in Yemen have described the attack as "an act of retribution" in solidarity with Chechen Muslims battling a Russian military campaign aimed at crushing their bid for independence.

## Qaboos accepts land gift in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Sultan Qaboos of Oman has accepted a gift of land in Pakistan that became a focus of controversy in the country, the visiting Omani commerce minister said here Sunday. Magbool Ben Alif Sultan dismissed doubts that the recent controversy over the gift of 100 acres in the coastal area of Gawadar in Baluchistan would dampen relations between the two countries. "Oman's relations with all sides in Pakistan are very good and we have got no problems with any party," he said. Political opponents of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had accused her of selling back Gawadar to Oman, which sold and ceded the area to Pakistan in 1958. "A gift of 100 acres was given and His Majesty accepted that as it is very normal thing to do," Mr. Magbool said.

## 'Kuwait could face extremism'

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti religious activist said in remarks published on Sunday the government was trying to curb Islamist influence and this could cause extremism and intolerance. "There is evidence that the government is trying to trim the wings of Islamic work," Al Anba daily quoted Nazeem Al Mesbah, an influential member of the Salaf Islamist movement, as saying. "The behaviour of some officials... might lead to extremism. People are emotional about their beliefs," said Mr. Mesbah. Kuwait's

# Government wins confidence vote

54 votes in favour; 22 against; one abstention; two absent; speaker does not vote

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Sunday won the confidence of the Lower House of Parliament with 54 deputies voting in its favour, 22 withholding confidence and one lawmaker abstaining. Two deputies were absent and House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour did not vote.

Deputies who withheld confidence from the government were the 17 members of the Islamic Action Front, independent deputy Talal Obeidat (Irbid) and leftist parliamentarians Khalil Haddadin (Amman), Bassam Haddadin (Zarqa), Mustafah Shneikat (Balqa) and Toujan Faisal (Amman).

The two deputies who were absent from the voting were Ibrahim Shihdeh (Balqa) and Farah Al Rabadi (Ajloun). Abdul Hafez Shakhanbeh (Madaba) was the lawmaker who abstained.

The vote came at the end of a two-day session in which 32 lawmakers took the floor to express their views on the government and its policies. The government was expected to win such a comfortable majority due to its inclusion of 17 lawmakers who represent the majority of parliamentary blocs and "the respect and confidence in which members of the House hold the prime minister," as some deputies put it.

In their speeches, the

majority of deputies expressed confidence in the ability of Sharif Zeid to face up to the challenges of the new era but some criticised the composition of his team while opposition representatives attacked the cabinet for its commitment to the peace treaty with Israel and for the "encroachment" on democracy that they said characterised the past period.

The majority of lawmakers described as comprehensive the policy statement on whose basis the government asked for the confidence of the House, but some lawmakers said the statement was big on generalities and included no specific plans of action for implementing the tasks spelled out for it by His Majesty King Hussein in the letter of designation.

Responding to deputies' comments before the vote of confidence was cast, Sharif Zeid said these comments would be taken into consideration by the government which, he said, would continue to cooperate with the legislature (see excerpts of the speech on page 7).

The prime minister also reiterated pledges to consolidate democracy, respect freedom of expression, improve the economy, organise the labour market, strengthen efforts to ease the burdens of poverty and unemployment, develop the education curriculum, maintain support for the Palestinians and seek better ties with Arab countries.



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday addresses the Lower House of Parliament before deputies cast a vote of confidence in his cabinet (photo by Youssef A'Ham)

Sharif Zeid's speech addressed most of the issues raised by lawmakers in the confidence debate but he said the "good Islamic manners" according to which we were brought up, respect for the House and the country were among the reasons why he would not respond to "the slander" that he and his government had to listen to during the session.

The prime minister was referring to the unprecedented scathing personal attack that Deputy Toujan Faisal launched at him in her speech.

In the speech, "slandorous" parts of which the House voted to delete from its official records, Ms. Faisal accused Sharif Zeid of being a "front for other players" who, she claimed, run the affairs of the government.

She said the only good quality of Sharif Zeid that her "investigation" about him revealed was that he is "a good man" which, she said, is not enough to qualify him to be a prime minister.

Though she warned her colleagues against confusing the government with regime,

Ms. Faisal said such confusion had already been consolidated.

As Ms. Faisal continued her "slander" against the prime minister, Mr. Srour warned her twice that he would stop her from completing her speech unless she abides by the regulations of the House which ban personal attacks.

Protests against the speech were also made by several deputies but Ms. Faisal carried on leveling accusations against Sharif Zeid and some members of his team, who,

she said, will "only contribute to increasing corruption."

She said she was referring to ministers of state in the government who were not given specific portfolios because "the government itself did not trust them."

"I do not think that (Sharif Zeid) ran the affairs of his government (in 1991) and I do not think that he will run the affairs of this government... he is just a front and I would like to know who the real players are," Ms. Faisal said.

Ms. Faisal contended that the prime minister is not an able person to lead the government and could not find what his views and political colour are. She said the prime minister never spoke in public or answered questions of deputies and journalists directly and "challenged" him to speak in a public meeting with journalists, politicians and other people.

Ms. Faisal also attacked the peace process, which, she said, the previous government concluded under orders from foreign powers. She also attacked the press, senior officers in the armed and security forces, questioned the independence of the judiciary and rejected the fairness of the parliamentary elections of 1989.

Fellow deputies were also attacked by Ms. Faisal for allegedly giving confidence to governments under threats, saying that some time they

would have to pay for that. In expression of their rejection of Ms. Faisal's speech, lawmakers voted with "clear majority" to delete the "slandorous" parts in it from the records of the House.

"Do you accept such slander in Parliament? Slander should not be accepted or allowed," Deputy Mifteh Al Lawzi (Amman) told lawmakers, proposing that the House delete unacceptable language in Ms. Faisal's speech.

Mr. Srour asserted that the House would not allow any violations of its regulations and promised to scratch such references from the records.

Ms. Faisal on earlier occasions antagonised most of her colleagues for "insulting the House." After a confrontation with Deputy Jamal Khreisha last year, she said: "The House has no manners and I will teach it such manners" in addition to other offensive comments.

Some lawmakers contrasted Ms. Faisal's speech to the "balanced" manner in which the Islamic Action Front parliamentary bloc expressed its opposition to the government.

In a speech delivered on their behalf by Deputy Abdullah Akaleh (Tafilah), the IAF deputies criticised the government for entering peace with Israel and said they would continue to fight

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## Pelletreau reaffirms U.S. pledge

AMMAN (Agencies) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East Robert Pelletreau on Sunday reiterated that his country would support Jordan economically and politically.

The American official was speaking at a meeting with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, with whom he discussed the Amman economic summit to be held in October and the progress of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process.

Discussion also covered issues of mutual concern and international questions and the image of Islam in the West, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Prince Hassan emphasised the need to prevent all attempts to distort the image of Islam in the light of the current events in some countries. He said that Islam should be understood in its right perspective in the Western world.

Mr. Pelletreau, who was received in audience Saturday by His Majesty King Hussein and visited a number of organisations, left Amman Sunday at the end of a two-day visit to the Kingdom.

Mr. Pelletreau also met Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti to discuss regional and international issues of mutual concern.

Mr. Pelletreau said Saturday the U.S. administration "will do its utmost and in coordination with Congress in its new composition to provide economic assistance to Jordan."

Congress approved last year reducing a first installment of \$220 million of a total of \$702 million of official debt Washington agreed to write off over three years.

The U.S. official said Washington would work to find the best means to help improve Amman's chronic balance of payments deficit and encourage American investment in the country.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday shakes hands with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Richard Pelletreau. At left is Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti (Petra photo)

## Yemen, S. Arabia try to break deadlock

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia and Yemen held more talks here Sunday to try to settle their border dispute, a Yemeni official said, despite a week of negotiations.

Saudi Arabia's defence minister, Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, and Yemen's speaker of parliament, Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar, led the negotiating teams at a "working session" on Sunday morning, the delegate said.

They were meeting again in the evening. Presidents Hafez Al Assad of Syria and Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, whose governments mediated a Jan. 15 accord to prevent military escalation after an armed clash, contacted the two sides at the weekend.

Riyadh denied Saturday that it had massed troops along the border in the last week after Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh charged that it had done so before withdrawing them to 15 kilometres from the frontier.

The two countries are in dispute over the provinces of Najran, Jizan, and Assir close to the border and assigned to Saudi Arabia under a treaty signed in 1934.

Yemen argues the Taif accord expired in September 1992 but has said it is willing to renegotiate the treaty.

A Yemeni official in Sanaa said Saturday that the two sides had advanced proposals in Riyadh that were "irreconcilable."

"The Yemeni working group is demanding that the Taif accord is taken as a whole, and insists on normalisation between the two countries prior to a settlement of the border dispute," the Yemeni official said.

"However, the Saudis are demanding the renewal of the Taif accord, the demarcation of the unmarked border from Jabal Al Thar to the Oman-Yemen border, as well as the demarcation of the maritime borders, before any normalisation."

"By massing their troops along the border, Saudi brothers... want to put pressure on Yemen," the official added, condemning the "show of force by hardliners in the Saudi leadership which have expansionist aims."

A Saudi official quoted by the Saudi Press Agency denied the charge.

He said Riyadh "remains attached in the terms of the mediation accord concluded between the two countries on Jan. 15 following a previous armed incident on their border and calls on Yemen to show the same commitment."

Both countries then agreed to avoid a military escalation on the border following Syrian and Egyptian mediation aimed at defusing tension caused by a Jan. 10 border clash which diplomat's said left 40 Yemenis and 14 Saudis dead.

## No letup in Grozny bombing

GROZNY (Agencies) — Street battles between Russian troops and Chechen rebels continued in downtown Grozny amid heavy Russian shelling Sunday as a European mission arrived in the devastated city to look into allegations of excessive brutality in the Chechen war.

Black columns of smoke rose over the Chechen capital as artillery shells and mines slammed into its neighbourhoods. Explosions could be heard from the distance of several dozen kilometres.

"There have not been major changes for the past night. Fighting still goes on. The front line passes along Sunzha River," running across Grozny, said Isa Musostov, 40, whose small unit of Chechen fighters was stationed on the outskirts of the city.

"There is a very heavy shelling. They are using large mortars to fire from the industrial district," he said, adding that the Russian army was mostly targeting residential areas.

Chechen separatists launched pre-dawn attacks on Russian troops holding the military airfield of Khankala on the eastern outskirts of Grozny and on the Russian forces holding a bridge across Sunzha in city centre.

Chechen Information Minister Movladi Udugov told the Interfax news agency.

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## Israel extends closure, urges PLO 'iron fist'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel on Sunday extended its closure of the West Bank and Gaza for another week and urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to use an iron fist against opponents of the autonomy accord in exchange for a long-delayed Israeli troop pullout from occupied territories.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was quoted by ministers as saying at the weekly cabinet meeting that the peace process with the PLO was at a crossroads and that "terrorism has become a strategic danger."

A cabinet communiqué said he had empowered the treasury and police ministers to set up teams to examine "ways and means to achieve a separation" between Israelis and Palestinians.

Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tsur said the separation plan could ultimately lead to the PLO's dream of an independent Palestinian state.

"In the long term, it will mean setting borders, removing settlements, and indeed, the formation of an independent Palestinian entity."

Asked if he meant a Palestinian state, Mr. Tsur said: "Personally, I don't see this as the most dangerous thing."

As the cabinet met, police announced a first step towards an envisaged separation — the deployment this week of guard dogs along the frontier with the West Bank.

Israel, still hating its dead from a suicide bombing that killed 21 Israelis a week ago, has been reluctant to endorse the use of police dogs, wary of comparisons with the Nazis' use of the animals to guard Jews in concentration camps.

The cabinet communiqué

said the closure that has kept tens of thousands of Palestinian workers away from their jobs in Israel "will continue, at this stage, for another week."

"Lifting the closure over workers from Gaza will be examined according to the extent to which the PLO and the Palestinian National Authority abide by the commitments they made in the (peace) agreements signed with them," the statement said.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, who negotiates peace with the PLO, told reporters after the cabinet session that Mr. Rabin was determined to make progress in the talks on expanding self-rule.

But Mr. Sarid said Israel first had to submit a "package deal" to the PNA.

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## James Grant, pioneering head of UNICEF, passes away at 72

AMMAN (J.T.) — James P. Grant, the crusading director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) who won international acclaim for his efforts to improve children's health around the world, died Saturday, two days after resigning for health reasons. He was 72.

The cause of death was cancer, according to a statement from UNICEF's Middle East and North Africa Regional Office in Amman said.

"Despite his illness, he continued to lead UNICEF with characteristic energy and had met over the last year with more than 40 world leaders to seek their active support for the cause of children," the statement said.

United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali last week announced the resignation of Mr. Grant as executive director of UNICEF for health reasons and had asked Grant's deputy Mr. Richard Jolly to continue as acting executive director.

In a statement following Mr. Grant's death, Dr. Ghali said: "Very few men or women ever have the oppor-



James P. Grant

tunity to do as much good in the world as James Grant; and very few have ever grasped that opportunity with such complete and dedicated commitment. He will be remembered as a most distinguished servant of the United Nations and as one of the greatest international public servants of his generation."

As UNICEF head, Grant emphasised simple, low-cost methods of improving pediatric health, such as immunisation and oral rehydration.

Since 1980, when he took over as head of UNICEF, the percentage of children receiving immunisations in the developing world has risen from 20 per cent to 80 per cent.

Grant travelled the world, meeting with more than 100 government leaders. He always carried a packet of oral rehydration salts in his pocket, as well as a note on the number of children killed by preventable diseases.

The salts are used to treat children suffering from diarrhoea, a leading child killer in developing countries.

In Washington, U.S. President Bill Clinton said: "Throughout his long career Jim Grant was a visionary leader — one of the most distinguished international public servants of our time."

Under Grant's 15 years of leadership UNICEF has earned a reputation as one of the most effective and esteemed U.N. agencies.

In 1994 Grant received the Presidential Medal of Freedom — the highest honour awarded by the president of

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## Death in custody raises furor over PNA police torture

By Said Ghazali  
The Associated Press

**JERICHO** — Mourners wept at the funeral of a Palestinian man who died in police custody and cursed the men responsible.

One grieving woman shouted, "they are the dogs in the desert."

She was referring to the community's police force, fellow Palestinians who are accused of torture and widespread intimidation in this autonomy outpost.

Suleiman Jalayta, a 48-year-old father of six, was arrested in the middle of the night Sunday on suspicion of being an Israeli informant.

By Wednesday, he was dead. His corpse, shown to reporters, carried signs of slits by a sharp instrument on his wrists, forehead and the back of his neck.

"I saw signs on his wrists from a tightened rope and a bruise on the brow. I asked an interrogator about the bruise and he said that he knocked his head against the wall," said Hanan Ashrawi, the former Palestinian spokeswoman who is now a human rights monitor.

After a meeting with Jibril Rajoub, head of the Palestinian undercover units in Jericho, she said it was too early to draw conclusions.

There are widespread complaints both in Jericho and the Gaza Strip of security services swelling beyond control since the police arrived last May.

Terje Larson, top U.N. representative to the self-rule

authority, noted this week that police ranks had reached 15,000, well above the 9,000 that the organisation said it would bankroll through donor aid.

Palestinians complain bitterly about their treatment under Israeli occupation since 1967, and are dismayed to see their own police using similar tactics.

Mr. Rajoub defended recent nighttime arrests, saying the men were suspected of involvement in the death of a Hamas activist, arson, stoning joint Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) police patrols and printing anti-PLO leaflets.

"We are not practising the same thing the Israelis used to do against our people," Mr. Rajoub said, denying that anyone had been tortured.

Many Palestinians fear the deaths and general lack of legal control over police activity mean the Palestinians' self-rule areas are sliding into the kind of security state common throughout the Arab World.

"It is anarchy in Gaza and Jericho. There are no laws on detention or trial," said Ghazi Jeyab, a Palestinian activist once jailed for years by Israel.

"We have no security at all, only various conflicting security apparatuses."

Jericho, with a population of 15,000, has more than 1,000 police in various branches. Under the terms of the Israel-PLO agreement, prisoners from the West Bank were to serve out their sentences in Jericho. To give

them something to do in the quiet agricultural town, some were inducted into the security services.

They include Palestinian activists convicted of killing informants during the uprising against the Israeli occupation that started in 1987.

The charge of informing for Israel was levelled frequently during the occupation, with more than 800 Palestinians slain by fellow Palestinians. While Israel did maintain an extensive web of informants, the killings were often a means of settling clan or personal rivalries.

Jericho is succumbing to a climate of fear.

Among those arrested along with the apparent torture victim was Rashid Al-Fityani, 23. His younger brother Adib, 15, said a dozen men burst into the house and dragged him away. He was reportedly taken to a Jerusalem hospital in serious condition, but no relatives have been able to find him and the security services said they do not know his whereabouts.

Few want to give their names when discussing police activities for fear it will bring the police to their doors.

One middle-aged man who said he was beaten by security police glanced around the street, watching the blue-uniformed police and the undercover units with pistols tucked into the back of their pants.

"I am very scared. Gangsters are around. They can kill and cover their crimes," the frightened man whispered.



ACROSS THE FENCE: Two Jordanian army officers shake hands with Israeli army officers across the Oct. 26 peace treaty (see story on page 12) (photo by Youssef 'Alian)

## Thieves strip Egypt of heritage

**CAIRO (AFP)** — The centuries-old illegal trade in stolen archaeological treasures in Egypt has become more profitable than arms or drug smuggling and is draining the country's heritage, experts say.

More than 3,000 antiques disappeared in 16 thefts last year, often with the collusion of caretakers, said antiquities official Abdul Halim Nouruddin.

"This trade is more profitable than drugs or arms trafficking because the stolen objects are priceless," said Mr. Nouruddin, chairman of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation.

"Meanwhile, the budget available to improve the protection of ancient artefacts is shrinking," he complained.

The favourite targets of thieves from both Egypt and abroad are small artefacts no bigger than 40 centimetres in height — such as gold scarabs or Pharaonic amulets in turquoise — which are easy to export.

"To get them abroad, they cover them in very fine material to fool customs officers into thinking they are reproductions," Mr. Nouruddin said.

He said Cairo was negotiating with two countries for the return of artefacts stolen

in two separate thefts, organised by Egyptians and foreigners.

An antiquities inspector, who asked not to be named, said thieves send their customers a picture catalogue of stolen items so they can choose which ones they want.

Most thefts take place in storerooms belonging to the antiquities office and often while caretakers turn a blind eye.

"It is very easy to buy off badly-paid caretakers or the foremen of quarries in the desert where workers often find archaeological artefacts," the inspector said.

He cited the case of a storehouse in Nazlet Al-Saman, near the Cairo pyramids, which was stripped two years ago after caretakers were invited to a banquet by local inhabitants.

"Some labourers who take part in digs also sneak off with artefacts," he said.

The inspector also pointed the finger at inhabitants of Al-Qurna in the Valley of the Kings, a Pharaonic graveyard rich in treasures near the southern Egyptian town of Luxor.

"Many treasure hunters are buried underground and they dig underneath their houses without telling us what they find," the inspector said. The

inhabitants have resisted several attempts to make them leave the village.

Mr. Nouruddin said he would like to see safer storerooms and the appointment of experienced, trained guards for better pay to combat thefts.

"In coming weeks we are planning to hire 450 qualified caretakers with training in handling weapons," he said, adding that lights would be installed at all archaeological sites and stores.

Theft of antiquities should be considered "high treason," he said, and sentences increased from the current maximum of three years in jail.

However the extra security measures could be delayed through cash shortages. The antiquities department, like the rest of Egypt's tourism industry, has been hard hit by three years of Islamic militant violence which has specifically targeted Western tourists in the past.

The theft of Pharaonic treasures is a problem as old as the artefacts themselves. Thieves began to ransack richly-laden tombs around 3,000 years ago.

"That is why 80 per cent of Pharaonic caves we discover are empty," said tourist guide Medhat Nafie.

## Romanians replace Palestinians as cheap labour

**TEL AVIV (AFP)** — Romanian workers have replaced Palestinians as cheap, exploited labour in Israel and often get worse treatment from their employers, human rights groups say.

Romanians make up 60 per cent of the 70,000 foreign workers in Israel, and their numbers are growing all the time as the Jewish state repeatedly seals off the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The indefinite closure of the territories after last week's suicide bombing near the Israeli coastal resort of Netanya prevents 50,000 Palestinians from getting to their jobs.

"Romanians are more vulnerable than Palestinians, because they are dependent not only on their bosses but also on the people who bring them here," said Yael Gilboa of the Israeli Human Rights Association.

"Labour legislation does not apply to these people who do not have even the most basic rights, like social security, sickness benefit or

redundancy pay," she added.

Alarmed by the drastic plight of its citizens, the Romanian foreign ministry has lodged an official complaint with Israeli authorities.

A group of shabbily-dressed Romanian stone-masons, aged between 40 and 50, share an old hut on wasteland on Tel Aviv's sea front.

They regularly gather at a local bar, drink beer and gaze at the television.

Denise, a former prostitute from Haifa, complains that the Romanians "have no money and only think about getting their next drink."

Lon, 40, married and a father of two, arrived here seven months ago. He works on a building site in the Tel Aviv suburb of Petah Tikva and shares three rooms with two fellow Romanians.

He proudly shows off his passport, which has not been confiscated, unlike those of many of his compatriots in Israel. He does not want to speak ill of his homeland or the Jewish state.

## Majlis amends law on banning satellites

**TEHRAN (AFP)** — The Iranian parliament on Sunday amended a law banning satellites to clarify how the operation against the dishes would be funded, parliamentary sources said.

The move came after a supervisory council sent back the law, approved on Jan. 1, arguing parts of the ban were unconstitutional for making the government incur unnecessary expenses.

The Council of Guardians, which sees to ensure laws conform to Islamic principles and the constitution, asked parliament to clarify how the operation to remove hundreds of thousands of dishes in Iran and the fight against satellite equipment smuggling would be funded.

Parliament added an article to the law on Sunday, saying the cost of the operation would be financed through the fines imposed on violators.

The money would be deposited in the public treasury and then transferred to the interior and culture ministries as well as state television to be spent on the fight against Western culture.

The ban gives satellite users one month to take down their dishes and related equipment or face legal action. Anyone found owning or importing satellite dishes could face a heavy fine besides having the equipment seized.

Hundreds of thousands of satellite dishes have sprung up on roof tops in Tehran and other major cities allowing many Iranians to watch foreign television programmes

## Food shortages, sharp prices in Iraq

**NICOSIA (AP)** — Shortages of food and medicine in Iraq coupled with sharp price hikes are likely to increase deaths and malnutrition among children, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Saturday.

Iraq has been under trade sanctions imposed by the United Nations since its troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990. Iraq rejected a U.N. offer allowing it to sell a limited quantity of oil to buy food and medicine, claiming that U.N. terms were an infringement on Baghdad's sovereignty.

INA, monitored in Cyprus, quoted a study prepared by government researchers as saying the state-distributed food rations provided only 736 calories out of 2,306 calories needed, "which increases the rate of malnutrition, chronic disease and death among children."

It said the government managed to provide only 60 per cent of the needed quantity of milk for babies under one year old.

The researchers said prices of food in the black market have increased dramatically and many families had to sell

personal belongings to buy essential foodstuffs.

Iraqis contacted by telephone said that since the U.N. Security Council renewed the sanctions earlier this month, prices had risen sharply.

They said the national currency, the dinar, fell to a record low of 750 per dollar on the black market while the Iraqi Central Bank's rate sank to 600 to the dollar, from an earlier rate of 550.

Before the sanctions, the official rate was \$3 per dinar.

Some typical price hikes since the beginning of the month:

— A tray of 30 eggs jumped from 1,350 dinars (\$1.80) at the black-market rate to 1,700 (\$2.25).

— Sugar from 400 dinars (\$0.55) per kilo to 550 (\$0.75).

— Meat from 700 dinars (\$0.95) per kilo to 920 (\$1.20).

— Cooking oil from 750 dinars (\$1) per kilo to 970 (\$1.30).

A typical monthly salary for a middle-ranking government employee in Iraq would be about 1,500 dinars (\$2).

The inflation forced the

government last week to issue a new 250-dinar banknote, to be added to the 50- and 100-dinar notes issued following the Gulf crisis.

Commenting on the price increases, the Babil daily newspaper, run by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday, on Thursday warned merchants, money dealers and profiteers to "come to their senses before the Iraqi people and the leadership lose their patience."

It accused unnamed merchants of sabotaging the economy, a crime that carries the death sentence, and said the "government has the courage to use the means in its possession when the need arises."

An Iraqi businessman in exile, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Babil was indirectly reminding the merchants of the execution of 40 traders in the summer of 1992.

Iraq has recently intensified a global campaign to try to win the support of Russia, France, China, Spain and other countries to lift the crippling embargo.

The United States and Britain strongly oppose lifting the embargo

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Syria, Turkey discuss border security

**DAMASCUS (AFP)** — Turkish security chief Mehmet Agar arrived here Sunday for talks with Syrian officials on ways to step up security along the two countries' border, Turkish diplomats said. Mr. Agar and General Bader Hassan, security chief for the Syrian Interior Ministry, would focus mainly on the problem of smuggling between the two countries and on cooperation in the fight against drugs, they added. Delegations from the two countries meet twice a year to exchange information about security along their 1,000-kilometre border.

### Abu Dhabi may import water from Pakistan

**ABU DHABI (R)** — The Emirate of Abu Dhabi is looking at a plan to import fresh water from the mountains of Pakistan, a senior Pakistani official said on Sunday. "We left them (the Abu Dhabi authorities) a copy of the feasibility study," said Shahid Hasan Khan, special economic assistant to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. He was speaking at a news conference in Abu Dhabi, one of seven members of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The plan entails building a dam at Hingol, which is 233 kilometres northwest of Karachi but near the sea. Studies started in 1988 with the knowledge of the Abu Dhabi government, Mr. Khan said. The dam would have a big enough reservoir to provide around 100 million gallons a day of water for export after meeting the needs of local farmers and sending some supplies to Karachi.

### Quake in east Turkey causes damage

**ANKARA (R)** — A moderate earthquake shook eastern Turkey on Sunday damaging seven villages and killing farm animals as barns collapsed, Anatolia news agency said. The quake, measuring 5.0 on the Richter Scale, destroyed two houses in the village of Kukurtil in Erzurum province and damaged buildings in six other nearby villages, it said. Livestock and poultry were killed when flimsy barns collapsed in some of the villages but there were no human casualties, gendarmerie police told Anatolia. The tremor occurred at 6.17 a.m. (0417 GMT). Earthquakes of between 4 and 5 on the Richter Scale are powerful enough to cause heavy damage in a populated area.

### Swiss police bar Kurdish demonstrators

**DAVOS (R)** — Police stopped about 200 Kurds from reaching the Swiss ski resort of Davos on Saturday to demonstrate against the presence in the town of Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller. The Kurds, travelling in cars from all over Switzerland, were turned back at Klosters, eight kilometres from Davos, where Mr. Ciller is attending the annual World Economic Forum. Police said the Kurds, whose cars bore banners saying "Ciller go home" and "don't finance the dirty war against the Kurdish people," were told a small delegation could drive on to Davos, but they rejected the offer.

### Libya, Sudan to boost relations

**KHARTOUM (AFP)** — Sudan's Vice President General Zuhair Mohammad Saleh held talks here Saturday with Libya's armed forces chief Colonel Abu Bakr Yunes Jabr on ways to boost bilateral relations. Sudanese state radio reported that the meeting touched on Khartoum's desire to improve relations with neighbouring countries. Sudan is locked in a dispute with Egypt over the Halabi border region. Meanwhile Eritrea broke off relations with Khartoum last December alleging Sudanese "subversive action" on its territory. Sudan and Libya in 1990 signed a cooperation agreement in the economic, political and cultural fields.

### Adonis barred from Arab Writers Union

**DAMASCUS (AFP)** — Leading Arab author Adonis has been barred from the Arab Writers Union because of his support for normalisation with Israel, the official Syrian agency SANA reported. The union took the decision at its annual congress Friday in Damascus, the agency said. The meeting "raised the issue of normalisation with the Zionist enemy, rejected unanimously by the participants who decided to exclude the writer Adonis from the union because of his position favouring normalisation with Israel," Ali Ahmad Said, whose nom de plume is Adonis, is a Lebanese of Syrian origin who now lives in Paris. The 64-year-old author has played a key role in the development of modern Arab poetry and has written around 30 compilations of poems and essays as well as translating into Arabic the works of Saint John Perse. The Arab Writers Union president, Ali Akia Arsan, urged the association to "form a front of Arab writers and intellectuals to oppose cultural normalisation with the Zionist enemy," SANA said.

### Egyptian woman arrested for marrying 4 men

**CAIRO (AFP)** — A young Egyptian woman arrested for having four husbands pleaded that she could not resist virile men, the Egyptian press reported Saturday. Leila, 30, was accused by her first husband, 80-year-old Mohammad Morsi, of abandoning him to marry another man. The police then discovered that she was married to three more men, each having no idea about the others' existence. Leila was arrested when she went into a police station in Cairo to claim a food pension from her first husband, newspapers reported. She explained that she abandoned her successive husbands "when they could no longer fulfill their marital obligations, and because she could not resist virile men," they said. Leila rejected adultery charges, saying "I marry the man I find appropriate, instead of sinning." Morsi said he was willing to forgive her because "she is an honest woman. Leila could face a 25-year prison sentence."

## CONDOLENCES

On behalf of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) staff at the Amman-based Middle East and North Africa regional and area offices, the UNICEF Amman Staff Association (UASA) mourns the death of their Executive Director and Under Secretary General:

**Dr. James P. Grant**  
who passed away in New York on Saturday January 28, at the age of 72. Mr. Grant is remembered for his dedication to the cause of children and his untiring efforts, even during his serious illness, to further his dream of creating a better world for children.  
May God rest his soul in peace.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 ..... Coorates Minutes  
17:30 ..... Que Le Medieur Gagne  
18:00 ..... Scene De La Vie Des Dicoisseurs  
18:30 ..... Le Monde Fantastique Des Enfants  
19:15 ..... News In French  
19:30 ..... Magazine Sportif  
20:00 ..... Boogies Diner  
20:30 ..... Black Beauty  
21:00 ..... Street Hawk  
21:30 ..... Shades of L.A.  
22:00 ..... News In English  
22:30 ..... Louisiana

### PRAYER TIMES

05:07 ..... Fajr  
06:28 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
11:49 ..... Dhuhr  
14:41 ..... 'Asr  
17:11 ..... Maghreb  
18:30 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swedish Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627285.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 64990.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

## De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625641.

Anglican Church Tel. 63051, Tel. 628543.

American Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

American Orthodox Church Tel. 772661.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771251.

Amman International Church Tel. 625256.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624282.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195.

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 611295.

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Skies will be partly cloudy with winds northerly moderate. In Amman, warm weather conditions will prevail with winds northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp. 5/15

Amman 9/12

Dead Sea 3/17

Jordan Valley 9/20

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 14, Aqaba 22 Humidity  
readings: Amman 67 per cent,  
Aqaba 46 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Youssef Rashid ..... 896301  
Dr. James Tarif ..... 794710  
Dr. Fayed Dabbas ..... 799135  
Dr. Aboon Al-Hakim ..... 894366  
Fires pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Amman pharmacy ..... 670555  
Nabulwah pharmacy ..... 626672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shamsal pharmacy ..... 637660  
Nabulwah pharmacy ..... 626672  
Najih pharmacy ..... 947632

IRBID:  
Dr. Ali Al Omari ..... 272032  
Alquds pharmacy ..... (-)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Randa Shalim ..... 995710  
Khalifah pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence ..... 661111  
Rescue ..... 630461  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police 192, 821111, 63777  
Fire Brigade ..... 617101  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 693890  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Water and Sewerage ..... 661176  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Telephone Information ..... 121  
Directory assistance ..... 610230  
Overseas Calls ..... 610230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Abdullah Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615

Electric Power ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 06-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hamad Medical Centre 813815/32  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 644412  
J. Amn. ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 664174  
Palestine, Shamsal ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 843845  
Al-Mashraf Hospital ..... 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdal ..... 666127/7  
Al-Ahli, Abdal ..... 664164/6  
Islamic, Al-Mashraf ..... 771012  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 751112/6  
Army, Marja ..... 891611/5  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)900580  
Rm Sina Hospital ..... (09)98732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)99990

IRBID:  
Prince Basmal Hospital ..... (02)22225  
Great Catholic Hospital ..... (02)22275  
Rm Al-Nabulwah ..... (02)27108  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (09)914111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

##### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 ..... Same (RJ)  
08:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
09:30 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
09:30 ..... Agaba (RJ)  
09:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
09:30 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
09:30 ..... Doha (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Dhahran (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
10:30 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Colombo, Taipei (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:45 ..... Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)  
06:45 ..... Pepper (swiss) ..... 350/250  
06:45 ..... KLM (KL) ..... 180/100  
06:45 ..... British Airways (BA) ..... 120/80  
06:45 ..... London (BA)

## HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN







## Kobe earthquake forces uneasy truce among Japan's parties

TOKYO (R) — The devastating Kobe earthquake has forced an uneasy truce on the Japanese parliament, giving Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama much-needed breathing space, commentators and political insiders said Sunday.

The Jan. 17 earthquake struck on the same day that a splinter group from Mr. Murayama's Socialists was to formally break from the party, a move that could have led to snap polls.

"The quake brought the internal disputes and political bickering to a sudden halt," political commentator Kenzo Uchida wrote in the Japan Times.

The earthquake "has virtually killed the possibility of an early general election being held sometime between January and March," Mr. Uchida said.

The biggest test for Mr. Murayama now is how quickly he can adopt measures to reconstruct the city of 1.5 million people. As of Sunday, the death toll from the 7.2 magnitude earthquake stood at 5,092.

The latest estimate of reconstruction grew beyond seven trillion yen (\$70 billion), according to the Hyogo Prefectural Hall Sunday. Kobe is the capital of Hyogo Prefecture.

Mr. Murayama's spokesman Kozo Igarashi said on a television talk show Sunday that "the government would adopt a package of emergency relief bills by Feb. 10.

On the programme, Mr. Igarashi was pitted against exhausted Kobe residents speaking from an evacuation centre.

"We don't want to hear these tired phrases like 'we will consider this' or 'we will study this'. We need measures right now, minister, right now," one middle-aged owner of a small factory that made shoes in the hard-hit Kobe borough of Nagata told Mr. Igarashi. His factory, employing 30 workers, was severely damaged.

The chorus of demands for food, temporary shelters, medical aid and money for reconstruction of homes, offices and factories has forced the newly formed opposition New Frontier Party into a dilemma.

The party cannot keep up its attack on the government when Mr. Murayama must first meet the demands from the estimated 300,000 people made homeless. Many have also lost their jobs.

One such scene came last Friday when veteran New Frontier lawmaker Yuichi Ichikawa threatened a boycott of parliament proceedings over Mr. Murayama's constitutional definition of the post-war military. But Mr. Ichikawa backed down from his threat.

"We cannot afford to boycott the session," an aide quoted Mr. Ichikawa as telling a party caucus during a break Friday. "We, ourselves, could come under fire for delaying disaster re-

lief measures."

Until the earthquake, New Frontier leader Toshiki Kaifu was bent on launching an assault against Mr. Murayama's unwieldy coalition of his Socialists, their cold war foes the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and small allies, the New Sakigake Party.

Mr. Kaifu's goal was to force Mr. Murayama to step down and make him call early general elections.

But after the earthquake, Mr. Kaifu himself has ordered a halt to a move by young New Frontier lawmakers to collect signatures demanding Mr. Murayama's resignation.

"It's too early for that kind of extreme move," parliamentary sources quoted Mr. Kaifu as telling them.

For nearly 18 months since the general election in July 1993, political parties have been embroiled in bitter infighting and mass defections. During that time, Japan saw three new prime ministers come and go.

With the earthquake, the focus has shifted on just what governments are for, the welfare of the people, rather than political realignment, lawmakers said.

"Now is not a time for political struggles," LDP President and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono told a rally Saturday. "We must enact the state budget as soon as possible, stabilise policies and calm down society in gener-

al."

Mr. Murayama does not have to dissolve the 511-member lower house for general elections until 1997. Meanwhile 66 per cent of Japanese fear a big new earthquake in their own area, and a majority are critical of the government's response to the Kobe disaster, a poll conducted for the Asahi newspaper said Sunday.

According to a nationwide poll, 84 per cent of respondents said the damage from the Kobe quake on Jan. 17, was bigger than thought. The quake is reported to have killed more than 5,000 people, destroying nearly 100,000 buildings.

The newspaper contacted 2,000 people on Jan. 27 and 28, with 1,200 valid respondents. The poll showed 53 per cent of respondents were critical of the government's response to the nation's worst disaster since World War II. Only 39 per cent approved the government's handling of the crisis.

Asked about specific problems in the government's response, 41 per cent cited "inadequacy" in rescue and relief operations.

Nearly a fifth of the respondents pointed to "poor leadership" by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

While 21 per cent of those polled said they had begun preparing for big earthquakes since the Kobe disaster, 56 per cent said they had not begun any particular preparation.



Brazilian rescue workers look through the remains of a collapsed six-story apartment building in the resort of Guaratuba 800km south of Rio De Janeiro near the city of Curitiba. At least six people were reported dead and 20 trapped. A construction crew was working on the building to reinforce the structure at the time of the collapse, a police official said (AFP photo)

## At least 6 dead and 20 trapped after building collapses in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — A six-story apartment building collapsed Saturday in a southern resort town, killing at least six people and leaving more than 20 trapped in the rubble.

"We can hear the screams of many people, including a group of small children that was playing under the building when it collapsed," police Sgt. Ver Dasca told the Associated Press.

He said crews, supported by four helicopters and several cranes, had rescued seven people so far and were responding to the shouts of others. They recovered six bodies.

The building in Guaratuba, 500 miles (800 kms) south of Rio De Janeiro, collapsed suddenly at 10:30 a.m.

Sgt. Dasca said a construction crew was working in the building at the time to reinforce the structure after residents had reported several cracks in the concrete base.

"The crew heard a boom and ran out immediately," he said. "The whole building came down in 30 seconds."

Police had earlier said that about 50 people were in the building at the time it collapsed, but they later reduced

the estimate. Sgt. Dasca said 14 apartments in the building in the trendy centre of Guaratuba were rented by vacationers from the nearby city of Curitiba.

Sgt. Dasca said 100 police and fire officials were working on the rescue with the help of several hundred citizens, including friends and family of those under the rubble.

The Parana state government is sending airplanes and helicopters to help transport the injured and Gov. Jaime Lerner has flown to the scene to offer the state's financial and technical support.

Meanwhile, an explosion in a fireworks store killed at least 12 people, injured more than 25 and razed half a city block on the outskirts of Sao Paulo, South America's biggest city Saturday.

The explosion, which occurred when three tons of fireworks were being unloaded from a van in front of the store, was so strong that it levelled a bank, a post office, a drug store and several small shops.

Police said more bodies could be underneath the rubble.

Sobbing on top of a pile to

rubble, one man told reporters he was alive because a few minutes before the explosion he had taken his grandson for a walk.

"I heard the explosion and rushed back. When I reached what was left of my house I heard someone moaning. I helped pull out my son, my daughter and a granddaughter," he said. The daughter and granddaughter died later in a hospital.

The explosion destroyed dozens of cars in the commercial district and showered glass and concrete shards within 200 metres of the fireworks store, which also specialised in Afro-Brazilian religious artifacts.

Several hundred rescuers and doctors from five hospitals rushed to help the survivors, many of them in critical condition. An eight-month-old baby died in the explosion.

Using cranes, bulldozers and their bare hands, they sifted through the tons of wreckage and debris searching for victims.

Several survivors called for greater restrictions on fireworks, commonly used on virtually any holiday in Brazil.

## Rangoon prepares assault on rebels

BANGKOK (AFP) — Burmese troops appeared poised Sunday to attack the final stronghold of Karen separatist guerrillas, prompting hundreds of villagers to flee into Thailand. Thai border police and relief workers said.

Sporadic rifle fire has been heard near the Kawmoora Mountain camp of the Karen National Union (KNU) since midday Saturday (0500 GMT), an official with the Thai Border Patrol Police in Saiyok district told AFP by phone.

Government troops were reportedly preparing for a fresh offensive after successfully storming the headquarters of the KNU and Burma's self-declared opposition alliance at Manerplaw Friday.

That attack drove hundreds of KNU fighters into the northern jungle, but not before they set Manerplaw ablaze to destroy anything that might be of value to government forces.

An official with Thai Border Patrol Unit 337 across from Manerplaw added that the rebels had traded in their uniforms, dressing as villagers to blend in with other refugees.

They were believed to have regrouped in the hills 150 kilometres to the north, he said.

Meanwhile, some 4,000 Karens — mostly women and children — have fled Manerplaw, crossing the Moei River into Thailand's Sop Moei district where they were being sheltered, a relief worker said.

Fearing a full-scale assault after the fall of Manerplaw, some 300 to 400 ethnic Karen and Burmese villagers have also fled Kawmoora to Thailand, 15 kilometres away, according to the Saiyok border official.

They were being housed at a school in Saiyok district on the Thai border, he added. Kawmoora, a military camp 450 kilometres (270 miles) south of Manerplaw, has been reportedly surrounded by 2,000 Rangoon soldiers since last week, though fighting has been restricted to isolated skirmishes, he said.

There have been no reliable reports of casualties suffered at Manerplaw, though relief workers and Thai border unit sources said losses appeared heavy on both sides.

Press reports Sunday said that the government has handed Manerplaw over to a newly-formed splinter group called the Democratic Kayin Buddhist Organisation (DKBO), comprising former KNU Buddhists, opposed to the Christian leadership.

Karen state was also officially renamed Kayin state, the reports said.

## Mandela appoints white as new S. Africa police head

PRETORIA (R) — President Nelson Mandela appointed a white police general, George Fivaz, as South Africa's new police commissioner Sunday.

"I have every confidence that General Fivaz will lead the transformation of the police service," Mr. Mandela, flanked by police generals, including Gen. Fivaz, told a news conference in Pretoria.

"I would like to appeal to all members of the police service to join together in support of the new leadership. What is needed is to create a healthy labour environment," the president said.

Urging a swift end to labour disputes in the post-apartheid police, Mr. Mandela said negotiations should be conducted in a positive spirit.

"Striking members are expected to assist this process. 'Labour disputes must never be allowed to compromise the police service,'" he said, referring to a clash between striking police and riot police in Soweto township Friday in which a striker was killed and four policemen were wounded.

Gen. Fivaz, 49, the country's youngest police commissioner, told reporters the transformation of the police service had to be urgently addressed.

"It is crucial that policing issues must be addressed with extreme urgency and it is

important that the police service make a clean break with the past," he said.

Gen. Fivaz said among priority issues was the improvement of methods to combat soaring crime, enhancing community relations and the removal of all forms of racism and discrimination in the police.

Outgoing Police Commissioner Johan Van Der Merwe is due to hang up his hat in March, along with several other top officers who are retiring for medical reasons.

Gen. Fivaz, formerly head of Efficiency Services and one of three police generals on an interim advisory team to Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufumadi, is considered progressive.

"Even though he is not very senior, he is known to be very progressive and is also close to the minister," a policing analyst told Reuters.

Political analysts said Gen. Fivaz would urgently need to restore police morale and restore its credibility among black communities which perceived the force of old as apartheid's enforcement arm.

The headline Police and Prisons' Civil Rights Union (POPCRU), whose members were involved in Friday's Soweto clash, has threatened more strikes and protests to force Mr. Mandela's ruling African National Congress to deliver on promises to root out racism in the force.

## Allied PoWs lay wreath at Japanese war memorial

TOKYO (R) — Former allied prisoners of war joined their enemies of half a century ago Sunday to lay wreaths at Japan's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

"It's a solemn business and something I never thought I'd do," said Briton Arthur Titherington, who was a prisoner of the Japanese army for 3½ years in World War II, mostly in a work camp in Taiwan.

"It was very traumatic. I regret to say I cried," he said. Two Britons, an Australian and an American, all interned in Japanese prison camps during World War II, carried poppy wreaths to the memorial — a hexagonal roofed shrine overlooking the imperial palace and decorated with yellow, mauve and white chrysanthemums.

The former PoWs seemed to have good relations with the Japanese veterans, and said they had been frank about the brutality meted out to allied prisoners during war.

"We've met the enemy and there's been no trouble," said Sid Tavender, who was forced to work on the Burma-Siam "death" railway. "They've admitted the crimes we were committed. This is what we want."

Their fight now is with the Japanese government, which

has been reluctant to recognise the darker events of its war. Mr. Tetherington is representing an organisation of former PoWs pressing it for compensation for the malnutrition, forced labour, beatings and minor forms of torture they suffered.

Tokyo says the issue of compensation was dealt with finally under the 1951 San Francisco Treaty, when British PoWs were awarded 76 pounds 50 pence (\$122 at today's exchange rate).

However, on the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, and as Japan tries to become accepted in a bigger role in the world, there is increasing pressure on it to come to terms with its past atrocities.

On Monday, the group plans to bring a case to the Tokyo district court claiming \$22,000 each, an amount based on the sum the U.S. government awarded Japanese-Americans in 1988 as compensation for their internment in camps.

Apart from issues of principles, Japan is worried yielding to the demands of some groups could lead to an endless string of claims from victims of brutality, most of whom were Asians.

"I don't know the size of their budget," said Mr. Titherington.

## U.S. is prepared to offer arms to Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — The United States is willing to supply weapons to Cambodia if the armed forces continue a reform programme, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said Sunday.

Mr. Talbott said the proposal to provide weapons had not been opposed by King Norodom Sihanouk, whom he met earlier Sunday.

"I think that we and he are very much in accord on both the level and nature of American assistance to the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces," said Mr. Talbott at the end of a two-day visit to the country.

Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Winston Lord said the Americans had noted reforms already undertaken by Cambodia's armed forces.

These included deep cuts reduction in the number of officers in an army that once had more than 2,000 generals. Mr. Lord said he believed this figure had been reduced to a "couple of hundred."

## Clinton, Republicans debate federal welfare role

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton and Republicans agreed Saturday that states should have more flexibility in spending welfare dollars but parted ways on how much oversight the federal government should have.

The development emerged from a nearly five-hour working session on ways to reform the U.S. welfare system that Mr. Clinton held with Republican and Democratic members of Congress, state governors and local officials.

All agreed, as Florida Republican Representative Clay Shaw said afterward, that the current welfare system largely controlled by the federal government is "totally out of whack" and "doing more harm than good right now."

Differences emerged over plans Republicans are working on in the House and leaders of the National Governors' Association are discussing that would give states the power to develop their own welfare systems with money supplied by Washington but with few strings attached.

"I believe as it came out today there is an enormous difference in peoples' view as to how much discretion states should have versus the federal government," said Colorado Republican Sen. Hank Brown at a briefing after the session.

"I don't know if it's resolvable but I think you're going to see that to be the focus of the battle," he said.

Said White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta: "There is a debate and no agreement." Democrats concerned that states would leave some poor people, young mothers and children out in the cold want the federal government to set some standard requirements as a safety net.

Of particular concern is a Republican proposal to bar unwed mothers under age 18 from receiving welfare in an attempt to slow down the number of teen pregnancies.

The main U.S. welfare programme, aid to families with dependent children, pays an average of \$365 a month for a mother and two children.

"We shouldn't cut people off just because they're poor or young or unmarried," Mr. Clinton told reporters before the meeting started. "We should promote responsibility by requiring young mothers to live at home in proper supervised settings and to finish school."

"But we shouldn't put them or their children out on the street," he said. Mr. Shaw, chairman of the key House Ways and Means Subcommittee writing reform legislation, said he would be in a position to open committee hearings in a matter of weeks.

Participants on both sides of the aisle said the meeting was singular for its civility after the partisan battles of recent weeks since Republicans took command of the House and Senate after land-

mark Nov. 8 elections.

"It was a terrific discussion," said Vice President Al Gore. "We identified some areas where agreement is still eluding us, but we all recognise the work that needs to be done."

The reform challenge is big, fuelled by an explosion of teen pregnancies. In 1993, 14.2 million people received money through the aid to families with dependent children programme, compared to 11.1 million in 1975.

The system costs state and federal budgets more than \$22 billion a year, and many states have already begun experimenting with ways to save money after obtaining waivers from federal regulations.

Critics say the system has gotten to the point where it rewards some people for not getting a job. Both parties said welfare reform should include a limit on how long people can receive benefits.

Said Mr. Clinton: "I know that most people who are trapped on welfare will gladly take the work options if we can work out the system in the proper way."

But by staging the meeting, Mr. Clinton was trying to keep an ear in the debate and avoid standing on the sidelines as Republicans take control of the issue.

"I think it is perhaps the most pressing social problem we face in our country and the time has come for Congress to act," said Mr. Clinton, who touted himself as an

expert on the problem.

Mr. Clinton's welfare last year played second fiddle to his failed health care reform effort, and died.

Meanwhile, a House committee approved measures that would require criminals to compensate their victims and allow unlawfully seized evidence to be considered in more instances.

Freshman Rep. Sonny Bono of California accused Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee of playing "relentless games" on the issue of police warrants and searches, as Republicans began their push to rewrite the \$30 billion anti-crime law enacted last year.

The committee also adopted an amendment to a criminal alien deportation bill that would require the federal government to pay the cost of such deportations.

The amendment, introduced by Rep. Howard Berman from California, gained the support of seven Republicans on the committee from states such as California, Florida and Illinois with large immigrant populations.

With a sole dissenting vote, the 35 Judiciary Committee members voted to send the compensation bill to the full House. It would require criminals to pay full restitution to their victims for all damages resulting from the crime.

The compensation would include expenses incurred by the victim during a trial, such as lost income, child care and transportation.

## Singer Rita Pavone eyes U.S. markets

BUDAPEST (AFP) — Italian singer and actress Rita Pavone aims to conquer the U.S. music market with a double CD due out soon, she said in Budapest before attending a high-profile ball Saturday. Pavone, who lives in Switzerland with music producer and Italian restaurant-owner Teddy Reno, was to go on from Hungary to Spain, where she said she is preparing another new album containing disco and techno songs. The star guest of Saturday's Budapest ball was due to sing old and new hits live at Budapest's Opera House.

## 3 arrested for selling dinosaur eggs

SHANGHAI (AFP) — Police in Shanghai's Jingpu district have arrested three men for selling 16 fossilised dinosaur eggs to a Hong Kong company, a newspaper reported Sunday. The Liberation Daily reported that the men identified as Zhuang, Yang and Xu were arrested as they were about to hand over the eggs on Dec. 25 after sealing the deal earlier in the month for 450,000 yuan (\$53,500). The report said Zhuang bought the eggs in Henan province two years ago for 7,000 yuan and had been keeping them for his own enjoyment until last year when he discovered that the price of dinosaur eggs on the black market had risen. The eggs are protected antiquities.

Several hundred rescuers and doctors from five hospitals rushed to help the survivors, many of them in critical condition. An eight-month-old baby died in the explosion.

Using cranes, bulldozers and their bare hands, they sifted through the tons of wreckage and debris searching for victims.

Several survivors called for greater restrictions on fireworks, commonly used on virtually any holiday in Brazil.

Police said more bodies could be underneath the rubble.

Sobbing on top of a pile to

rubble, one man told reporters he was alive because a few minutes before the explosion he had taken his grandson for a walk.

"I heard the explosion and rushed back. When I reached what was left of my house I heard someone moaning. I helped pull out my son, my daughter and a granddaughter," he said. The daughter and granddaughter died later in a hospital.

The explosion destroyed dozens of cars in the commercial district and showered glass and concrete shards within 200 metres of the fireworks store, which also specialised in Afro-Brazilian religious artifacts.

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## World



Onlookers watch the high water levels on the Rhine after the Bonn bridge after the Rhine flood.

## Rhine flood

BONN (Agencies) — Flood levels on the Rhine were poised to reach record levels Sunday as steady rain showed no sign of abating and water topped at the first floor windows of the buildings in the old town of Cologne, in western Germany.

Experts said the swollen waters were likely soon to set above the record levels set around Christmas 1993, with the situation set to remain critical until the middle of the week at least.

Cologne, a city of about one million inhabitants, suffered considerable damage in the 1993 floods. 3,000 soldiers were placed on duty around the city, with pontoon bridges set up at many points. Thousands of people lined the banks and bridges along the river hoping to catch a

General view of a farm near Britany, in France, after

Reformer

BERLIN (AFP) — Heirs to the former East Germany's Communist Party have rejected a reformer to head the Party (PDS) but stopped short of rejecting communists with fierce debate fought by party hardliners.

Lothar Bisky, a 53-year-old academic specialising in communication sciences, was the only candidate running for president of the PDS, whose party congress was due to wind up Sunday.

An overwhelming 82.8 per cent of the delegates meeting in the German capital voted Saturday night to give him another two-year term.

French po

PARIS (Agencies) — French politicians, eager to share spoils of victory, rushed to weekend to Prime Minister Edouard Balladur who looked unshakable with France's presidential election less than three months away.

With opinion polls showing the prime minister likely to beat any opponent by margins of around 60-40 per cent, Balladur while the position of chief rival Jacques Chirac looked increasingly gloomy.

Cooperation Minister Bernard Debré, a Balladur ally, called on Mr. Chirac Sunday to withdraw from the race to avoid further splits in the RPR. Gaullist party which Mr. Chirac heads and Mr. Balladur belongs to.

Best demonstrated when he attended a meeting of several hundred RPR parliamentarians and officials Saturday who pledged support to him rather than Mr. Chirac.

Aides to Interior Minister Charles Pasqua who organised the meeting initially expected 400 to 500 top RPR



## Singer Rita Pavone eyes U.S. market

BUDAPEST (AP) — Italian singer and actress Rita Pavone aims to capture the U.S. music market with a double CD due out next week. Pavone, 47, is attending a high-profile concert in Switzerland on Saturday. She is a producer and restaurateur in Reno, was in the 1960s, and said she is preparing a new album consisting of guest songs by ball was due to release new hits live at the Opera House.

## 3 arrested for selling dinosaur eggs

SHANGHAI (AP) — Police in Shanghai have arrested three men for selling 16 dinosaur eggs to a Hong Kong company, a newspaper reported Sunday. The men, identified as Zhuang, Yang and Zhang, were arrested as they were to hand over the eggs to a man in the month before the 1995 New Year's Eve. The eggs, which were found in Henan province, were kept for 7,000 years. The men were kept in custody until they were found to be selling the eggs. The eggs were found in Henan province, and the men were kept in custody until they were found to be selling the eggs.

## More drugs wash up on French beach

BORDEAUX, France — More bags of washed up on the beach of Bordeaux, France, police said. The bags were found on the beach of Bordeaux, France, and the police said they were found on the beach of Bordeaux, France. The bags were found on the beach of Bordeaux, France, and the police said they were found on the beach of Bordeaux, France.

## Cher starts catalogue for specialty item

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cher is looking for a chain-mail catalog for her specialty items. The catalog will feature her specialty items, and she is looking for a chain-mail catalog for her specialty items. The catalog will feature her specialty items, and she is looking for a chain-mail catalog for her specialty items.

## Indonesia to tighten sale of alcoholic drinks

JAKARTA (AP) — Indonesian government is to tighten the sale of alcoholic drinks. The government is to tighten the sale of alcoholic drinks, and the Indonesian government is to tighten the sale of alcoholic drinks. The government is to tighten the sale of alcoholic drinks, and the Indonesian government is to tighten the sale of alcoholic drinks.



Onlookers watch the high waters of the river Rhine from Cologne's Deutz Bridge after the rising Rhine flooded the old part of the city. Large parts of northwest Europe were under water as rivers rose under the pressure of heavy rains (AFP photo)

## Rhine floods expected to reach record levels

BONN (Agencies) — Flood levels on the Rhine were poised to reach record levels Sunday as steady rain showed no sign of abating and water lapped at the first floor windows of the buildings in the old town of Cologne, in western Germany. Experts said the swollen waters were likely soon to rise above the record levels set around Christmas 1993, with the situation set to remain critical until the middle of the week at least. Cologne, a city of about one million inhabitants, suffered considerable damage in the 1993 floods. 3,000 soldiers were placed on alert around the city, with pontoon bridges set up at many points. Thousands of people lined the banks and bridges along the river hoping to catch a glimpse of the inexorable rise of the waters, and police set up roadblocks to allow only the customers of bars and restaurants through and keep bystanders away. The situation was critical in other areas of the country despite the promise by weather forecasters of a break in the rainfall. The Main and Mosel rivers were continuing to rise and many parts of Koblenz, where the Mosel empties into the Rhine, were affected by flooding. Meanwhile rising rivers forced hundreds more people from homes and a hospital in northern France after heavy rain flooded many European cities, authorities said Sunday. At least six people were reported missing and one person dead in a third consecutive winter of flooding in France. At least two people were dead and one missing in Belgium. Heavy flooding also hit the Netherlands. Another storm, one of a chain that rolled in from the Atlantic in recent days, brought some showers Sunday and many rivers were reported leveling off. But more rough weather was predicted for Wednesday. In northeastern France the Meuse River reached record levels overnight Saturday, triggering the evacuation of 500 people in Charleville-Mezieres, near the Belgian border, authorities said on customary anonymity. The rising Oise River prompted authorities to evacuate all 172 people Saturday night from a hospital in Lann, 110 kilometers northeast of Paris and 70 residents fled their homes in the town of Origny-Sainte-Benoite. A few kilometers to the south, the Seine neared 4 metres above normal Sunday, having forced the closure of riverside expressways and causing traffic jams since last week. River traffic, including the glass-covered tour boats, were shut down. In the northwest, the Maine and other swollen rivers have kept more than 600 people from their homes in Angers, 200 in Redon and 160 in the Normandy coastal town Quistrehem. About 140,000 residents in the Seine-Maritime region were forced to boil water to drink, and scattered power outages affected thousands. Two factories and a college were evacuated. In Brittany, thousands of people were evacuated from their homes last week and the economic effects were worsening. High water added the more than 10,000 workers at Citroen auto plant that builds 1,000 vehicles a day. Several thousand other employees were idled at smaller factories or businesses shut down by flooding in several northern French towns. In the Normandy city of Caen, sailors and kayakers were making use of a flooded stadium but police were cracking down, fining at least one sailboarder 300 francs (\$70).



General view of a farm near Pont-de-Buis, following torrential rains which have swept the Brittany, in France, after it was flooded region during the past week (AFP photo)

## Reformer reelected to head Germany's PDS

BERLIN (AFP) — Heirs to the former East Germany's Communist Party have reelected a reformer to head their Democratic Socialist Party (PDS) but stopped short of rejecting communist after fierce debate fought with party hardliners. Lothar Bisky, a 53-year-old academic specializing in communication sciences, was the only candidate running for president of the PDS, whose party congress was to wind up Sunday. An overwhelming 82.8 per cent of the delegates meeting in the German capital voted Saturday night to give him another two-year term. Only 51 delegates voted against Mr. Bisky compared with 317 in favour and 15 abstentions. Delegates Friday night had adopted a motion "irrevocably" pledging never to return to Stalinism. The statement by the PDS, formerly the Socialist Unity Party of East Germany, said dictatorship and centralism had no place in the party's future. But the "Communist Platform" led by 25-year-old Sarah Wagenknecht, a philosophy student, persuaded delegates not to officially adopt a more wide-ranging anti-Communist position or pronounce the defunct East Germany an "illegal state." Mr. Bisky, who drew up the text of Friday's statement jointly with the head of the parliamentary group Gregor Gysi and the honorary party President Hans Modrow, had said he would not accept a further term as party leader unless the statement was accepted. Nevertheless PDS leaders were forced to make several changes to the motion — including a clause promising that anti-communism would not be tolerated in the party — after it was rejected at the first attempt by almost half the delegates, including a core of hardliners. "The PDS cannot and must not be anti-Communist," the statement said. But the concession failed to mollify hardliners and Mr. Wagenknecht, one of the party's 14 secondary leaders, announced she would run for another term. Mr. Gysi then threatened not to seek reelection himself unless the young woman failed to be reelected. The PDS, whose supporter base is very much restricted to the former East Germany, holds 30 of the 672 seats in the Bundestag, Germany's parliament.

## French politicians rush to back Balladur

PARIS (Agencies) — French politicians, eager to share spoils of victory, rushed to pledge allegiance this weekend to Prime Minister Edouard Balladur who looks unstoppable with France's presidential election less than three months away. With opinion polls showing the prime minister likely to beat any opponent by margins of around 60-40 per cent, support poured in for Mr. Balladur while the position of chief rival Jacques Chirac looked increasingly gloomy. Cooperation Minister Bernard Debré, a Balladur ally, called on Mr. Chirac Sunday to withdraw from the race to avoid further splits in the Rally for the Republic (RPR) Gaullist party which Mr. Chirac heads and Mr. Balladur belongs to. Mr. Balladur's rise was best demonstrated when he attended a meeting of several hundred RPR parliamentarians and officials Saturday who pledged support to him rather than Mr. Chirac. Aides to Interior Minister Charles Pasqua who organized the meeting initially expected 400 to 500 top RPR members. Reporters on the spot later said it looked as though about 900 showed up, and Mr. Pasqua was hugging to trade in his influence for the prime minister's post after the April 23-May 7 election. Candidates for the premiership abounded including Defence Minister Francois Leotard of the centre-right Republican Party (PR) which solidly fell in behind Mr. Balladur at their national council in Lyon, also Saturday. Specialists had predicted Mr. Balladur would get 80 per cent of backing from the PR where Charles Millon, until recently an influential party leader, had hoped to launch his own candidacy. But the 2,201 delegates gave Mr. Balladur a resounding 93.36 per cent with 4.1 choosing to support Mr. Chirac and only two per cent backing Mr. Millon. No one even mentioned former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing who until over a year ago was widely expected to be candidate of the non-Gaullist centre-right in the election. With the possible exception of a hopeless quest by Mr. Millon, there will not be for the first time in decades, a centre-right candidate, underlining the blurring of old divisions in France's conservative majority. Commentators said the events would have comforted the late President Charles De Gaulle's cynical assessment of France's politicians. "They're always ready to rush to the aid of victory," he once said. Education Minister Francois Bayrou, whose centrist CDS party had already hesitated to endorse Mr. Balladur, is another would-be prime minister. Political commentators are wondering whether Mr. Balladur's intention may be to force a merger of centrists, Gaullists and centre-rightists into a single movement if he is elected. Mr. Pasqua is expected to try to replace Mr. Chirac as RPR chief after May, especially if Mr. Balladur dissolves parliament to call new general elections. Mr. Leotard, Mr. Bayrou and a host of others, mostly in their 40s, such as ambitious Budget Minister Nicholas Sarkozy, one of Mr. Balladur's two closest advisers, are said to be already eyeing the 2002 presidential elections. Mr. Sarkozy told fellow Gaullists Saturday they should not have qualms about withdrawing support from Mr. Chirac, who nurtured nearly all their careers, "because we have (now) made the choice of lucidity and for the future." President Francois Mitterrand, whose Socialist Party has been so far unable to even choose a candidate for what looks like an impossible challenge, used his legendary sharp tongue to mock Mr. Chirac's discomfort. "He's like someone thrown out of his sleep by a clap of thunder and who doesn't know whether he's just put on his shirt or his pants," Mr. Mitterrand told a Socialist gathering. Mr. Mitterrand said Saturday he will not reveal a preference between declared Socialist candidates Henri Emmanuelli and Lionel Jospin, who are vying to succeed him in May.

## Ecuador-Peru fighting rages on as death toll is set at 23

QUITO (AFP) — Battles raged for a third straight day between Ecuadorian and Peruvian troops Saturday in a long disputed Amazon border zone, as officials said the fighting had claimed at least 23 lives. International mediation efforts continued in the dispute, with Organisation of American States Secretary General Cesar Gaviria visiting both capitals in a bid to initiate a dialogue and ease tensions. Ecuador began calling up reservists born in 1973 and 1974, but even before the appeal reached local media, hundreds of volunteers were coming forward, officials said. Defence officials in Quito said more troops, equipment, munitions and materials were being transported to the conflict zone in accordance with a state of emergency declared Friday. Hundreds of residents were fleeing the region in anticipation of an escalation, officials said.



A truck transports Peruvian troops to the border with Ecuador in Tumbes, Peru. Troops continue to deploy as clashes with Ecuadorian soldiers continue over a border dispute (AFP photo)

In Lima, President Alberto Fujimori said following a two-hour meeting with Mr. Gaviria that Peru was acting in "legitimate self-defence" and that forces were defending Peru's border with Ecuador. Mr. Fujimori acknowledged that there had been "a few skirmishes" between Ecuadorian and Peruvian troops in the Cordillera Del Condor region. The Peruvian president earlier said while visiting the border town of Tumbes that neither the United Nations nor the OAS were competent to intervene in the crisis. Ecuadorian Colonel Pablo Viteri, commander of the 17 Pastaza Jungle Brigade, told AFP that at least 20 Peruvians and three Ecuadorians had been killed Thursday in the first day of fighting in the unmarked stretch of border along the Condor Mountain range. Col. Viteri also said the Ecuadorians took a number of Peruvian prisoners, but did not give an exact number. The Joint Armed Forces Command in Quito said Ecuador had repelled a squadron of Peruvian warplanes Saturday in the Pacific coastal province of El Oro, without any shots being fired. It was the first reported incident involving air forces since Thursday's clash that led both sides to reinforce their borders. Ecuador also reported more clashes around the border town of La Cueva De Los Tallos. A military official in Lima said meanwhile that Peru was sending tanks and heavy artillery to the Amazon border zone, which has been disputed by the two countries for decades. Earlier, Ecuador's President Sixto Duran Ballen said his government's troops repelled an assault by Peruvian troops Saturday in the upper Cenepea River. Mr. Duran Ballen said he had ordered Ecuadorian troops "to defend the sites where we have been for many decades."

Both presidents said they would accept mediation from the four guarantors of a 1942 peace accord between the two countries — Argentina, Chile, Brazil and the United States. Representatives of the four countries late Friday issued a plea for dialogue and offered to help broker a settlement. At the United Nations, the U.N. Security Council was summoned for emergency consultations on the situation by Argentina, which holds the council presidency for January. But the meeting was postponed until Sunday, diplomats said. Mr. Duran Ballen declared a national state of emergency and military mobilisation Friday after a series of clashes with Peru. Lima newspapers, citing military sources, said Peruvian forces clashed at least twice Friday with "infiltrating" Ecuadorian troops near the Cenepea River. According to the Peruvian press accounts, Peruvian MI-8 and MI-17 helicopters attacked Ecuadorian positions with rockets. Peru and Ecuador have disputed the oil — and mineral — rich region along their border for more than 50 years, with the last major outbreak of fighting occurring in 1981. The latest troubles began with Peruvian reports that an Ecuadorian helicopter attacked a border post inside Peru late Thursday, and Ecuadorian charges that Peruvian troops attacked forces inside its territory the same day. There had been two incidents earlier this month in the remote mountainous area on the edge of the Amazon basin. After a nearly year-long war between the two countries in 1941, Peru and Ecuador signed a peace treaty delimiting their borders. But Quito renounced the 1942 Rio De Janeiro Protocol in 1960, arguing that it had been pressured into signing and that the protocol contained geographical errors.

## Bosnia tensions rise as peace efforts stall

SARAJEVO (R) — Rising tension between Bosnia's warring factions and more harassment of U.N. peacekeepers have developed in tandem with deadlock in international peace efforts, United Nations officials and diplomats said Sunday. The five-nation "contact group" which suspended its mission to Bosnia at the weekend has no firm idea of how to overcome its biggest stumbling block — the Bosnian Serbs' refusal to accept the latest peace plan — diplomatic sources told Reuters. The contact group, comprised of officials from the United States, Russia, Britain, Germany and France, had been trying to persuade the Serbs to accept a peace plan that calls on them to give up a third of the territory they now hold in Bosnia. The Bosnian Serbs insist they cannot ignore the results of a referendum last summer in which their people overwhelmingly rejected the plan, which divides Bosnia roughly in half between the Serbs and a Muslim-Croat alliance. The Muslim-led Bosnian government has accepted the plan and rejects Serb efforts to treat it as simply a basis for further haggling over territory. A source familiar with the negotiations said the Serbs were using the referendum as an excuse not to compromise and described their explanation as "disingenuous." The political vacuum left by the deadlock in the peace process has brought a rise in tension across Bosnia, with no let-up in fighting in the northwestern Bihac enclave. There have also been cease-

fire violations in Sarajevo. U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko said 66 artillery shell impacts had been reported in the past 24 hours in the Bihac enclave around the town of Velika Kladusa. In Sarajevo, three explosions were reported at about midnight Saturday in the city centre which the U.N. said might have been rifle-propelled grenades. The source of fire was under investigation. In the Muslim-held eastern enclave of Srebrenica, Bosnian army troops were blocking 75 Dutch U.N. peacekeepers from returning to their base, Mr. Ivanko said. The Dutch were investigating a recent encroachment by the Serbs in the eastern edge of the enclave. Mr. Ivanko said it was possible the Bosnian army was trying to exert pressure on the U.N. to push the Serbs back after the Bosnian Serbs moved their lines 150 metres forward. There was also increasing tension between nominally allied Muslims and Croats around the city of Mostar, where a Dutch United Nations military resupply convoy turned back after Bosnian Croat troops fired into the air. Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic sought to play down the differences and called for tolerance between Croats and Muslims, the Sarajevo daily Oslobodjenje reported Sunday. "Some are accusing us of wanting an Islamic Bosnia-Herzegovina. Those are false accusations of those who would like to divide Bosnia," he said. Croatian President Franjo Tudjman alleged recently that the Muslim-led Bosnian government was to blame for growing tensions in the Croat-Muslim federation and claimed the Sarajevo government wanted to create an Islamic state. Mr. Izetbegovic was conciliatory. "There will be no new confrontations with Croats... there were some problems in Mostar, but we overcame them." U.N. and diplomatic sources say Croat-Muslim relations have become extremely strained in recent weeks, not only in Mostar, but also in the Magaj area farther north. Both sides have arrested police officers along with local political leaders. One Western source said there were reports that Bosnian Croat soldiers had committed acts of "thuggery" and even rounded up some Muslims for forced labour.



Brigadier Robert Gordon (left) briefs new UNPROFOR commander Lt. Gen. Rupert Smith on the latest developments in Sector South West. Gen. Smith has just taken over from Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose and was visiting his command's Rear Headquarters at Split (AFP photo)

## Rift over Europe deepens in British ruling party

LONDON (R) — An acrimonious rift over European integration deepened Sunday as the ruling Conservatives argued over Britain's patchy marriage with the continent. Like the nation as a whole, the British government is sorely split over what power member states should cede to European Union (EU) authorities. With the isolationists apparently gaining ground, a leading Conservative warned Prime Minister John Major that he was mishandling the issue just as a top Eurosceptic trumpeted a shift in the cabinet's stance. "There has been a clarification," said Employment Secretary Michael Portillo when asked about his government's increasingly comba-

tive line towards Europe. "There is (now) no difference between me and the rest of the cabinet. There is no difference between me and the majority of the Conservative Party," Mr. Portillo told Sky News from an international economic conference in Switzerland. Such claims of harmony aside, the internal divisions over European policy are rife. And it is the anti-federalist wing of Mr. Major's party that increasingly holds sway, as whispering campaigns rumble around leading Europhiles like Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. Sir Edward Heath, a former Conservative prime minister and strong advocate of an integrated Europe, criticised the budding anti-Europe momentum and said by 1997. Only 31 per cent favour the idea, which is backed by European Commission President Jacques Santer. Mr. Santer's wholehearted embrace of EU integration has pushed Mr. Major onto a collision course — either with the EU authorities or within his own party at home. And it is the anti-federalist wing of Mr. Major's party that increasingly holds sway, as whispering campaigns rumble around leading Europhiles like Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. Sir Edward Heath, a former Conservative prime minister and strong advocate of an integrated Europe, criticised the budding anti-Europe momentum and said

Mr. Hurd had no plans to leave office. "What we're doing is attacking everybody else in the union. Some people believe we can change the whole thing to something which is just a get-together and nothing more," he told BBC Television's Breakfast With Frost show. "This isn't going to happen and if we try it, we do ourselves even more damage," he said. Already, the party is paying the price for its divisions. Nine Conservative politicians have left the parliamentary party in a row over Britain's contribution to the EU budget, and are fiercely resisting any new loss of sovereignty to Brussels.



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## Way is clear ahead

NOW THAT Sharif Zeid's third government has won Parliament's vote of confidence, the road has been paved for the executive team to carry out its main task of steering Jordan into the new post-peace era. Following the signing of a peace treaty with Israel and the thaw in Arab relations that culminated in the signing of several agreements with the Palestine National Authority, Sharif Zeid's government, guided by His Majesty King Hussein's letter of designation, its own statement on intent and deputies' demands, can embark on the ambitious scheme of transforming Jordan into a model of prosperity and a beacon for the other Arab countries to emulate in democracy and respect of human rights.

We cannot but notice that the debate of the last two days in the Lower House of Parliament has shown a mature House that reflected in many ways the aspirations of the people at large. Though people's immediate concerns are poverty, unemployment and the rising cost of living, most recognise that democracy, respect for the Constitution and the rule of law, respect for human rights and clean government are all essential tools for the transformation of the country into a modern state.

All indications point to the certainty that this government will take the Kingdom to the next elections scheduled for the fall of 1997. From now until then a great deal of work and reform can be accomplished through the joint effort of government and legislature. In this vein, the government needs to draw, as we are sure it will, on the experience and goodwill of the deputies, be them on its side or in the opposition.

The agenda of the new government is therefore full. It includes in addition to the enormous task of managing Jordan's relations with Palestinians, Arabs, Israelis and the rest of the world, and the much-called for and awesome task of reforming the country's political, economic and managerial systems.

Whether on the internal or external fronts, the government mostly needs to mobilise the whole country into one national effort to achieve the goals set by the leadership and aspired by the people.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Dustour Sunday expressed deep concern over the situation on the Saudi-Yemeni border noting that statements coming out of Sanaa and Riyadh have been conflicting. Saleh Qallab said that while a Yemeni delegation was reported holding reconciliation talks in Riyadh, he heard about Saudi massing of troops along the border. There were also conflicting statements between the Yemeni president and the head of the Yemeni delegation in Riyadh Abdullah Al Ahmar, which tend to confuse the situation further, said the writer. Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh's sudden decision to visit Damascus Sunday points to obstacles in the path of a settlement between Saudi Arabia and Yemen at a time when the Yemeni military commanders describe the situation along the border as serious. The writer said that Yemen which has just come out from a devastating civil war should take every possible measure to defuse tension. Saudi Arabia ought also to avoid any move that could trigger a conflict and plunge the Arabian peninsula in a cycle of violence, added the writer. He said that internal Arab divisions pose the most serious threat to the Arab Nation.

AHMAD MISLEH, a columnist for Al Ra'i, Sunday called for the creation of a special United Nations fund to handle the sales of Iraqi oil for the purpose of financing Iraq's food and medical needs. Mistleh said that the Iraqis have displayed all cooperation and flexibility in dealing with the United Nations and the inspectors who searched and destroyed Iraqi mass destruction weapons, and therefore the Iraqis should be dealing directly with the United Nations and not with the United States which has demanded that oil sales should be handled by American officials and oil companies. The writer said that the United Nations is quite eligible of handling the oil sales and deducting 30 per cent of the revenues for war reparations, keeping the rest for the Iraqi needs of food and medicine. The time has come for the world community, said the writer, to take appropriate measures to save the Iraqi people from their sufferings.

## Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

## The executive order and the rights of Arab and Muslim Americans

ON JANUARY 24, 1995, U.S. President Bill Clinton issued an executive order which has generated significant unease among Arab-Americans and American-Muslims. The order is entitled "Prohibiting Transactions with Terrorists who Threaten to Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process." It is viewed with concern because of the perceived danger it could pose to civil and political rights in this country.

One Arab-American leader noted that if the purpose of the order were specifically designed to outlaw groups which carry out violent actions against civilians and to prohibit U.S. citizens and residents from joining or directly financing such activity, that would be acceptable. But, the leader continued, "the order as it is written can be interpreted quite loosely by U.S. law enforcement agencies who may, in their efforts at enforcing it, catch innocent U.S. citizens in their web. That could pose a real danger to legitimate political rights."

The Clinton administration has been under pressure from a wide range of sources to stop the flow of support for Middle East terrorist activities which allegedly comes from the U.S. Most notably, Israel and pro-Israel U.S. Jewish groups have been waging a campaign to identify U.S. opponents of the peace with an international network of "Islamic fundamentalist funding for terrorism against Israel."

Two years ago, following Israel's expulsion of the alleged Hamas supporters in December of 1992, I wrote about a campaign waged by these same sources. That campaign was centred on the Israeli charge that the funding and organising of the Islamic opposition in the West Bank and Gaza was directed from the U.S.

The bombing of New York's World Trade Centre in 1993 played right into the hands of Israel by legitimising its campaign in the eyes of some in the media. Within weeks of the bombing, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin visited the U.S. and, speaking before a New York audience said, "so now you know what it's like (to suffer terrorist attacks)." Some U.S. Jewish groups joined the campaign, as did a number of U.S. media personalities.

This campaign caused some panic in the American Muslim community. Hitherto virtually unknown to the U.S. public and unrecognised by the U.S. media, the Muslim community in this country suddenly became the topic of press coverage — not for their contributions as citizens or for their piety, but for their "possible links" to international terrorism.

Their campaign has continued. One Jewish group, the American Jewish Committee (AJC), issued a "policy and action plan on international terrorism" in December of 1994. In part, the plan says: "private terrorist groups, from whatever source, must be interdicted by governments committed to the fight against terrorism; in the United States and other countries, fund-raisers and propagandists for Hamas, Hezbollah and other militant Islamic extremist groups must be identified and, to the extent permitted by law, their activities shut down."

In pursuit of this objective, the AJC plan "urges the president to issue a national security directive setting forth a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy and to assure that his statements about the urgency of the threat posed by terrorism are heeded throughout the government;" and "through multiple media, educate and inform the American public about the universality of the threat of militant Islamic extremism, to keep terrorism a topical issue, of public concern until this scourge no longer exists."

Not only were Israel and U.S. Jewish groups behind this effort to cut alleged U.S. ties to Islamic opposition groups, but several Arab governments and some in the Palestinian leadership became involved as well. They were concerned, on the one hand, with what they considered "confusing aspects" of U.S. behaviour towards Islamic opposition groups, and also by verified reports of substantial wire transfers of funds to these groups emanating from third countries, passing through U.S. banks and then ending up in their countries.

One point needs to be made clear. Wire transfer of funds from other countries are one thing, but to allege that Arab-Americans and American-Muslim groups are involved in funding terrorism is something else entirely. There are, to be sure, some Muslim-Americans and Palestinian-Americans who oppose the current peace process. Some of them, through their mosques and charitable groups, have raised money to support specific and well-known institutions in the West Bank and Gaza. The amounts they raise are notable, but not substantial (and are in no way equivalent to the amount Jewish groups raise to support privately funded settlements in the West Bank).

The danger that many of these legitimate Muslim and Palestinian-American charities feel is that their activity (which is being attacked by some Jewish groups) may be held suspect by law enforcement agencies and that members of their communities may become too frightened to contribute to their work.

It is therefore ironic to note that Arab-Americans and American-Muslims also inadvertently played a role in pushing the administration to issue the executive order.

After the massacre in the Tomb of the Prophets mosque in Hebron, many Arab-Americans and American Muslims were outraged that the perpetrator was a U.S. citizen who had links to the U.S.-based group of the late Meir Kahane. Some pointed out to the administration that the group Kahane, the Jewish Defence Leagues (JDL), and its Israeli successor groups Kahane Chai and Kach, had strong U.S. roots in recruitment, fund-raising and training. They called on the administration to crack down on these groups and to pass laws to eliminate their U.S. connections — without realising that, if they weren't careful, the sword they asked

the administration to use could cut two ways.

It should be clear that the executive order includes these Jewish groups as well as the Palestinian and Arab revolutionary groups that are well-known for their opposition to the peace process. But, of course, the Arab-American and American-Muslim groups feel that they will receive the brunt of the order's attention.

The danger inherent in the executive order is not its effort to freeze the assets of these groups or to eliminate their recruitment, training and fundraising bases. The danger, as perceived by Arab-Americans and American-Muslims, could come if the FBI (which is charged with implementing the order) is given too great a licence.

The Arab-American and American-Muslim communities experience with the FBI has not been a healthy one. Going back to the 1960s, the FBI has been engaged in periodic campaigns of surveillance and what some have described as harassment and intimidation against activists in the communities. On a number of occasions, hundreds of Arab-Americans and American-Muslims have seen their civil and constitutionally protected rights violated by the agency of the government which is charged with protecting those rights — the FBI.

Most recently during the Gulf war, over 200 Arab-American community leaders, including high-ranking elected officials and respected community spokespeople, were visited by the FBI and questioned about their knowledge of anti-American activities. In many cases, these visits were public and caused many well-known leaders a great deal of embarrassment. This FBI effort was so wrong-headed that over 50 major U.S. newspapers wrote editorials demanding that the FBI cease and desist its questioning of Arab-Americans. City councils and state legislatures across the country joined in the call as did scores of U.S. senators and members of Congress.

That FBI campaign stopped, but the fear of abuse by that law enforcement agency remains alive in the Arab-American and Muslim-American communities.

Another case fresh in the minds of many, and not only in the Arab-American community but also in the U.S. civil rights community, is the harassment of the group known as the "L.A. 8." They are seven Palestinians and one Kenyan woman who were arrested in 1987 by the FBI and held for deportation. They were charged with the "crime" of distributing literature of the "Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine."

The L.A. 8's case attracted the support of the major U.S. civil rights and ethnic groups because it is unacceptable in the U.S. to threaten anyone with punishment for political literature they receive or distribute. The case, which has been stalled in the U.S. courts for seven years, may resurface since the executive order lists the PFLP as one of the "terrorist groups." The question asked by U.S. civil liberties advocates is, "does the distribution or even sale of such papers constitute a violation of the executive order," since the order, in effect, bans acts that:

"Assist in, sponsor, or provide funds, material or technological support for or service in support of such acts of violence;" and prohibits: "Making or receiving of any contributions of funds, goods or services to or for the benefit of such forces (i.e., groups which engage in violence in opposition of the peace process)."

Of equal concern to some Arab-American and Muslim-American groups is the announcement by Secretary of State Warren Christopher that the administration will "propose new legislation to the Congress which will tighten U.S. immigration laws to inhibit 'terrorists' from coming to this country. Of concern are these reported sections of the legislation which will deal with:

Increased scrutiny of "sham marriages" designed to bring aliens into the U.S.;

Further restricting student visa waiver programmes; and

— Making asylum requests more difficult.

Once again, the major concern is with the application and implementation of such measures because, if they are interpreted too loosely, they could adversely affect many innocent people whose rights will be effectively abridged.

It is significant, as I noted, that the executive order includes Arab, Muslim and Jewish groups. But what concerns Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans is that the rhetoric used to discuss and justify the order has been directed exclusively at Arabs and Muslims.

There is virtually no measurable support for "terrorism" among Arab-Americans and American-Muslims. Those who do support such activities are clearly outside the mainstream of the communities and their actions have caused and continue to cause embarrassment to the larger community and pose some threat to our effort to advance and become empowered.

So, while Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans are quite unified in opposition to violence and those who support such activity, we are equally vigilant to respect the rights of those in our community who hold unpopular political opinions. And we have shown our commitment in the past to defend their rights when they are threatened.

Cracking down on violence is one thing, but Arab-Americans and American-Muslims are resolved not to allow this executive order to become a tool to crack down on political dissent — even if we disagree with the views of those who are being threatened.

Our experience is that we can, with the help of our many allies, win protection of our constitutionally protected rights. That is why many of our communities' groups have joined in coalition to insure that this executive order, whatever its original intent, does not become a licence for either law enforcement agencies or some pro-Israel groups to spy on, harass or otherwise intimidate Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans.

## Sri Lanka ceasefire brings relief and hopes

By Arthur Max  
The Associated Press

JAFFNA, Sri Lanka — Under a bright moon, motor boats steal across the shallow Jaffna lagoon, overloaded with sacks of rice, bundles of clothes, bicycles and people, risking capsizing in the choppy water.

But for years, a bigger threat has been Sri Lankan navy gunboats enforcing a blockade of the Jaffna peninsula, the stronghold of the Tamil Tiger rebels. Rebel speedboats, armed with machine guns, often escorted the supply boats.

"Sometimes we were caught in between when they fought each other. We would crouch down and watch them shooting over our heads," said Bishop Thomas Samdanasayagam, the Roman Catholic primate of Jaffna, who makes the trip often to visit parishioners.

Now, a ceasefire declared Jan. 8 — the first fruit of peace talks that began last October — has eased the hazards of the crossing and is beginning to bring relief to the besieged peninsula.

Shops are filling with goods not seen for years, like school bags and batteries.

The armistice also is lifting hopes that after 11 years of bloodletting and 34,000 dead, Sri Lanka's civil war may be heading towards a negotiated settlement.

But a history of betrayed truces and decades of ethnic hatred between minority Tamils and the Sinhalese who dominate this tropical island nation still feed distrust and scepticism that peace will hold. "People on both sides worry that a generation which has grown up in war will not know how to adjust to peace."

And doubts also remain about the Tamil Tigers and their shadowy leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran. A guerrilla fighter for more than half his 40 years, he has crushed all challengers, stifled dissent and inspired equal measures of hero worship and fear.

"The people are behind them," said one newspaper editor who, like many people in Jaffna, agreed to talk with a reporter only if granted anonymity. "During a war, people don't expect democracy."

A whispered conversation with a retired civil servant showed not everyone agrees. "We need our freedom to talk, move about, live as we like. These freedoms are denied to us here," he said. "If someone was to hear me talking like this, I would be killed."

After a decade of war, Jaffna is a shattered city. The heart of a would-be Tamil homeland is a bombed-out ruin. More than one person in three

lives in a displaced persons camp. Most homes have not had electricity for four years. Telephones are a dim memory. With fuel tightly regulated by the government, only a handful of cars are on the cratered streets — nearly all of them driven by Tiger officials. Buses and motor scooters have modified engines that run on a foul-smelling concoction of kerosene and vegetable oil.

While the rest of Sri Lanka blossomed, with an economy growing at 5 per cent annually and a booming stock market, Jaffna suffocated under the embargo. Jobs are scarce and prices high.

The head of the Department of Communal Medicine at Jaffna University, N. Sivaraman, said he found in 1993 that 19 per cent of Jaffna's children were malnourished, compared with less than 4 per cent in 1976. The infant mortality rate more than doubled since the outbreak of the war, to 42 per 1,000 births.

The Tamils contend they suffer institutionalised discrimination and have long demanded control of the Tamil-speaking areas of the north and east. The map of their proposed state of "Eelam" covers nearly one-third of the country, although Tamils make up only 18 per cent of the population.

But the sides seem to be converging. The chief Tiger spokesman says the rebels will forgo their demand for independence and end the war in exchange for regional autonomy. The government has said decentralising power will be the centrepiece of a constitutional revision.

"We would seriously consider a federal model," Tiger spokesman Anton Balasingam said in an interview. "The entire Tamil population also is fed up with the war. The Tamils have been bearing the brunt. We have to fall in line with the global trend of reconciliation."

Hopes for peace have been dashed before. A peace accord mediated by India in 1987 never took hold. And a truce called in 1989 lasted for 13 months before the Tigers attacked police outposts and broke off peace talks.

The avenue for the latest peace talks opened last August when a leftist coalition led by Chandrika Kumaratunga ousted the United National Party, which had governed for 17 years and refused to negotiate with the rebels.

"It is the first time in the history of our struggle that the government has assumed power with a mandate from the Sinhalese people to resolve the conflict by peaceful means," said Mr. Balasingam.

## LETTERS

### Better readers, better writers and happier Arabs

To the Editor:

I USUALLY do not reply to letters commenting on my columns in the Jordan Times, but I feel it necessary to respond to Mr. Cecil Hourani's letter (Jordan Times, Jan. 29) because I believe that his reading of my column has seriously misinterpreted and distorted what I believe in my heart and what I actually wrote in the newspaper. I would make the following points:

1. I do not at all try to provide a psychological "justification" for Arab terror, since a justification implies approval or just cause for the acts. I merely insist that the modern Arab political order, in which Houranis and Khouris are willing and happy actors, must come to grips with the full underlying factors that drive some people to terror. We must accurately recognise what causes terror, rather than, ostrich-like, avoiding the difficult totality of the social, economic and political ailments that define many aspects of the modern Arab order. Those who know me and have read my writing over several decades would laugh at the suggestion that I might justify terror. My record for peace negotiations, mutual compromise and Arab-Israeli reconciliation speaks for itself.

2. I do not at all claim to "represent the feelings" of many, perhaps most, Palestinians and Arabs who, I believe, react rather passively to anti-Israeli Arab terror because of the reasons I mentioned in my column. I merely point out this phenomenon, and I make the point several

times in my column that it is a deeply troubling one. Indeed, the single most important moral point of the article is a strong plea for Arab society to come to grips with the distortions and ravages to our ethics and morality that are inherent in the phenomenon of Arab/Israeli terror.

3. Mr. Hourani is not being fully truthful when he says that I suggest that the demeaning nature of the peace talks is the cause of the frustration that drives the terror bombers. In my article I clearly stated that the main, overall reason for Arab frustration is that a large number, perhaps a majority, of Arabs and Palestinians are "unhappy with the current political balance between Arab and Israeli national rights." This refers to issues far wider and older than the peace process, and, at the expense of being long-winded, which I am, I list five other important reasons why many Arabs are frustrated. To choose one reason only is to be unfair as a reader, and to criticise me on the basis of only one of six reasons is to be unfair as a polemicist.

4. I am, indeed, very critical of many aspects of Israeli, Arab and American official political postures, and I make my criticisms in an attempt to contribute to the continued drive towards a better Arab World, a drive in which Khouris and Houranis are willing and happy actors. Mr. Hourani enters the realm of conjecture and mistaken presumption, though, when he speculates that my reference to the collapse of the U.S.-Vietnam peace of the early 1970s is "a stern warning to the regime in Jordan." (Mr. Hourani, a gentleman and a scholar, is honest enough to preface his statement with the word "presumably," for he

recognises that he is presuming to read my mind; in this case, he has simply made a wrong reading). He is very creative in interpreting my comments as being about Jordan only, which they are not. I am referring to all the Arab parties that have signed accords with Israel, or that are negotiating and meeting with Israeli officials. His remarks about the possible anger of the Palestinian population of Jordan are intriguing, but they are clearly his remarks, and not from my article. Once again, my point is to suggest that we should not ignore the reality, extent or causes of Arab dissatisfaction with the current peace-making process, and that we should not be afraid to come to grips with people's feelings. It would be a terrible shame if the current peace-making round resulted in a cold peace, like the Egyptian-Israeli peace, in view of what has happened in North Africa since the early 1980s.

5. Mr. Hourani takes several personal swipes at me and at what he interprets as my motives, but I shall not reply to those more personal comments because, a) he has the right to say anything he wants about my character, as long as he correctly understands and does not distort what I actually write and believe, b) I desire only to discuss public issues rather than personalities, and c) it is an honour to have my writing critiqued in public by a person as eminent as Mr. Hourani, for it will make me a better writer, and he a better reader, and both of us better, happier Arabs.

Rami G. Khouri,  
Amman.



## Government wins confidence vote

(Continued from page 1)

normalisation with the "Zionist enemy". Dr. Akaleh said there was a clear retreat in the country's democratic process which was manifested in the targeting of political activists, suppression of the opposition's points of view and the utilisation of the official media to propagate the stands of the executive.

The IAF lawmaker demanded that the government reassert democracy, allow freedom of expression to the opposition, draft a new "fair" election law and consolidate the Arab Muslim identity of the country among other demands (see excerpts from the speech on page 7).

Dr. Akaleh said the Islamic movement in the Arab World had been targeted by a Zionist-Western coalition to prevent an Arab Muslim renaissance and that some Arab governments have done more to oppress the Islamists than the "Zionist enemy".

"Violence and extremism are inevitable reactions to oppression... and injustice," he said.

But, he said, the Islamists' experience in Jordan has been different from other violent ones elsewhere in the Arab World even though the movement is sometimes affected by the "Western-Zionist push" to limit its influence.

Dr. Akaleh said, however, that the Islamists would not end their political activities or "surrender" as the Arab World enters into peace with Israel and would play their role in defending the nation against the domination of the "Zionist enemy".

The IAF was the only bloc to express its views on the

government through one speech representing all its members. Dr. Akaleh said the Islamists had agreed to participate in the democratic process so that their programme would help in developing the nation and forming its future.

Leftist Deputy Bassam Haddadin echoed the Islamists in saying that democracy had been compromised in the country, calling for a national unity government that will bring about the change that people want.

Speaking on behalf of fellow leftist Deputy Mustafah Shneikat, Mr. Haddadin demanded that the government make its implementation of the peace treaty with Israel conditional on the latter's commitment to achieve comprehensive peace through withdrawing from occupied Arab territories, allow the return of refugees and end its settlement activities.

But President of Al Ahd Party Deputy Abdul Hadi Al Majali defended the peace treaty as a "national choice" that was supported by the majority of the people and approved through constitutional channels.

Mr. Majali criticised officials he did not name for "calling the peace process a storm and yet running away from it... so that not to participate in discussing it."

Praising the government for moving to achieve Arab reconciliation, Mr. Majali criticised "those who attack the country for stressing its national identity while accepting the uniqueness of the identity of other Arab people."

"Our unique (Jordanian) identity is part of the diversi-

ty on the Arab arena which has been created by geography and experience," he said. Despite the uniqueness of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, said Mr. Majali, "it is a relationship that should be governed by the vital mutual interests of the two peoples and we have to define this relationship so that not to miss the political dimensions of this relation through emotional talks."

Jordanian-Palestinian relations are predicted on the reality that "we are two peoples and it should be taken into consideration that a national Palestinian entity is being formed, thus requiring the assertion of the Palestinian identity, which we hope will not be in conflict with our own identity," Mr. Majali said.

The Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, he said, must be consolidated as one "between two countries and two identities in a balanced manner so that others do not use this relation to separate us."

Mr. Majali said that Jordan's national identity does not conflict with any political identity that any other Arab people might take for itself.

The confidence session on the third government of Sharif Zeid was the shortest among all other confidence sessions that were held since the 1989 parliamentary elections.

The number of confidence votes the government won is second only to that of the government of Mudar Badran among the five governments that took office since 1989. The then 23-strong Muslim Brotherhood bloc voted in favour of Mr. Badran's government.

## Prime Minister pledges cooperation with the House in his response to deputies' remarks

FOLLOWING ARE excerpts from Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker's speech in which he responded to deputies' remarks Sunday.

FOLLOWING are major excerpts from Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker's reply to deputies' speeches in the House of confidence session that ended Sunday.

The government has listened with an open heart to the speeches of parliament members and their suggestions concerning the country's present and future.

The government will dedicate its efforts to achieve the priorities in the best national interest and will be committed to dealing with all citizens on equal level without any discrimination and acting with fairness and justice.

I will personally and firmly confront any violation of rules or excesses at all levels and I am confident that the Lower House will extend sufficient support to the government in its mission without any bias.

The government's policy statement has stressed that the government will open all avenues for culture in order to enhance Jordan's Arab and Islamic identity. Jordan is the offshoot of the Great Arab Revolt and is oriented towards a pan-Arab renaissance which is designed to help ensure Arab unity and freedom. This government is committed to work within this framework and with a view to achieving the national objectives.

At the economic, social and cultural levels, the official media will direct its attention to public concerns and various issues related to the public. It will also serve as a forum for promoting creativity and intellectual activities.

This government has started its task by embarking on finalising the basis for a strong relationship between the Palestinian and the Jordanian peoples. This government is determined to pursue its national duties in supporting the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and assisting its endeavours to construct the national institutions. It has started this task by signing agreements which help to achieve this objective.

This government will back the Palestinian peoples' steadfastness and enable the Palestinian people to establish their own independent state on Palestinian soil.

With regard to education, the process of change requires some time to bear fruit. But the government is determined to go ahead with plans to achieve a qualitative step forward and an improvement of the educational sector and to spread basic education to all regions.

Regarding higher education, the government will conduct a comprehensive revision of this sector and give due attention to the universities, with special attention to the Al al-Bait University.

But the government will carefully examine the situation and the country's needs before issuing further licences for new universities.

As pledged in the policy statement, the government will give due attention to the media. The government's official information will reflect political pluralism. At the economic, social

and cultural levels, the official media will direct its attention to public concerns and various issues related to the public. It will also serve as a forum for promoting creativity and intellectual activities.

The government is committed to amend and modernise the existing laws and regulations. The government is committed to presenting to the House draft laws including a new election law, a draft law on the Centre of Studies and Democracy and Human Rights.

With regard to administrative reform, my government will translate its policy statement into real forms of reform and into practical plans. This will begin from the point of appointing a government employee and will continue throughout the years of service, and will pursue efforts to upgrade laws, train employees and follow up on their performance.

My government will work out practical programmes and their mechanism to activate and stimulate the role of the Audit Bureau and the Civil Service Commission as well as the Bureau for Administrative Inspection and Control.

The government will seek to ensure economic growth and pursue the economic reform programme and ensure monetary and financial stability and stable prices, taking into account the interests of all parties.

The government would like to emphasise its commitment towards ensuring social

security through the development of the umbrella that ensures such security, and will continue subsidising basic foodstuffs and supporting the National Aid Fund and the Development and Employment Fund.

The government is determined to work out a draft law that can improve the present income tax system and in a manner that can cater to the requirements of the present stage. But the government will not impose new and additional burdens on taxpayers but will introduce a fair and just system for all.

The government will not impose any taxes on capital profits. Investments are needed to help curtail unemployment and poverty and the government will create the opportune climate for achieving this goal and will offer further incentives for investors.

Concerning poverty and unemployment, my government will give due attention to these issues which were discussed by most of the deputies in their speeches. I confirm that the present government will give due concern to these issues and will resort to measures like:

1. Encouraging investments and creating climates opportune for the implementation of income-generating projects.
2. Increasing the scope of vocational training to help the unemployed get jobs.
3. Ensuring harmony between the educational system and the needs of the local labour market.

4. Organising the labour market and opening the way for Jordanians to take jobs occupied by guest workers.

5. Measures that will help Jordanians get jobs abroad.

6. Speeding up the implementation of government capital schemes.

7. Increasing support for small-size income generating projects.

8. The government will promote the work of specialised funds that help the needy.

9. The government will stimulate the role of voluntary organisations that help achieve social justice.

The government is determined to give due attention to the implementation of a comprehensive health insurance scheme.

A study has been completed in this respect and will be examined by the Higher Health Council before its implementation.

The government will pursue efforts to support the agricultural sector and will make available the required agricultural inputs at reasonable prices to enable this sector to increase food production. I would like to say that the government is quite capable of replying in kind to slanderous attacks. But the government prefers to respect the honour and responsibility and the House and to uphold the rules of democracy and free expression.

## Israel extends siege, urges 'iron fist'

(Continued from page 1)

"They must be willing to deal with terror and terrorists with an iron fist, and we will be more flexible politically to allow Palestinian elections and army redeployment within three to four months," he said.

Tourism Minister Uzi Bar-Am said that a government majority supported barring Palestinian workers from Israel on a long-term basis. Ministers approved importing 6,000 foreign workers to replace the Palestinian day labourers.

The cabinet decided on the closure last week as a response to attacks which have claimed 54 lives since Oct. 1. The measure is intended to stop guerrillas from infiltrating into Israel.

PLO officials argued that suffering would only increase because tens of thousands of Palestinians were being kept from jobs in Israel.

"I don't think that the closure, a separation of this kind will solve the problem and give security to the Israelis," said Suifan Abu Zaide, a member of the PNA.

Mr. Rabin, appointed Police Minister Shihab to head a team that will give recommendations on how to implement the separation within a month.

Mr. Shihab said he had ordered the stationing of police dogs at roadblocks separating the West Bank and Israel to be used in tracking infiltrators and finding explosives.

Israel has long avoided the

use of dogs for security because of its association with Nazi tactics used in the holocaust. There is also a taboo on using dogs for police work in the Arab World.

Mr. Shihab's spokesman Rafi Levy said measures "rejected in the past because they were thought to be too harsh and extreme are now necessary."

Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said the cabinet decided to freeze discussion of Palestinian demands for more prisoner releases. Israel holds more than 5,000 Palestinians in its jails.

Also frozen were plans to permit freer Palestinian travel between the autonomous zones of the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho. Mr. Ben-Ami said.

## Grant passes away at 72

(Continued from page 1)

the United States. When he resigned from UNICEF on Thursday, Mr. Clinton sent him a letter, thanking him "from the bottom of my heart for your service to America, to UNICEF and most of all to the children of the world."

Grant was a tireless fundraiser with a knack of attracting publicity for UNICEF, in part due to his own energy and his ability to persuade celebrities to promote the agency's cause. They included Liv Ullmann, Roger Moore, Peter Ustinov, Harry Belafonte, and the late Danny Kaye and Audrey Hepburn.

His attention-grabbing campaigns often put him at odds with the World Health Organisation, whose duties overlap. But who was no match for Grant's creativity in drawing attention to children, such as leading a convoy to Sarajevo two years

after negotiating a week of tranquility.

Grant organised a 1990 World Summit for Children which brought together heads of state and government to set targets over the next decade to reduce the number of deaths of children by 2.5 million.

He also pushed a treaty on the rights of the children, which came into effect in 1990 and now has 170 signatories.

Grant was born in Beijing on May 12, 1922, and sent his first 15 years in China, where his father worked as a medical missionary. He graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1943 with a degree in economics.

After the war he served with the U.N. Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in China, but then went to Harvard for a doctorate in jurisprudence and practised law in Washington for a few

years. But he returned to international development, serving on the boards of a number of organisations, including the U.S. Agency for International Development and its predecessors.

During the administration of John F. Kennedy he was deputy director of the International Cooperation Administration and deputy assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs. In 1969, he became president of the Overseas Development Council, a post he held until he became the third head of UNICEF in 1979.

Mr. Grant leaves a wife and three sons, three stepchildren and eight grandchildren.

For those wishing to express condolences, a book for signature will be open at the UNICEF regional office in Amman.

## No let-up in Grozny bombing

(Continued from page 1)

He said as a result of heavy street fighting, Russian troops were forced to withdraw from three streets they held in downtown Grozny. There was no independent confirmation of the report.

Russian helicopters equipped with loudspeakers circled over villages to the west of Grozny Sunday, warning the residents against attacking military columns moving through the area, now a main route for army reinforcements.

"They said that if a single Russian soldier dies, the village will be bombed," said Saladdin Akhmedov, a resident of Zakan-Yurt, located about 20 kilometres west of Grozny. "There are no Chechen units in our village, only civilians."

Meanwhile, a delegation of the Organisation for Security

and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) arrived in Grozny Sunday morning, the ITAR-TASS news agency said.

The delegation is looking into allegations of human rights abuses in the battle over the breakaway republic. Russia is a member in the Vienna-based, 53-member OSCE.

ITAR-TASS said the delegation "intends to familiarise itself with the general situation despite the military actions."

Chechen rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev has lost his grip on reality, the Russian government said in a statement following a threat by Mr. Dudayev to attack Russian cities close to Chechnya.

The Kremlin's press service said: "One gathers the impression that Dudayev has

completely lost a sense of reality, while his remaining illusions are melting away like springtime snow in the foothills of the Caucasus."

The statement was issued in response to Mr. Dudayev's statement Saturday that Russian cities close to his breakaway republic "will burn as today Grozny is burning" unless Moscow started negotiations with him.

The Kremlin's statement said that the threat was nothing new, but added that Mr. Dudayev was inconsistent because he claimed to control his fighters while at the same time claiming he could not stop them from attacking Russian towns.

Mr. Dudayev made his threat to carry the war over the Chechen border into Russia in an interview by satellite television with Italian weekly Espresso.

"It is not what I want, it is a precise plan, (Russian President Boris) Yeltsin has been warned."

## Excerpts from deputies' speeches

(Continued from page 3)

**Abdullah Akaleh** (Tafileh — Islamic Action Front)

The introductory paragraph of the government's statement may suggest that the state of law and institutions has been established and that what remains is to pursue the building effort by enhancing democratic practices, achieving justice and equality and carrying out comprehensive reform.

Whoever examines the actual situation of the state in light of this slogan will find out that there is a big gap between slogans and implementation.

Is it under the state of law and institutions that authorities provided for in the laws and even in the Constitution are taken away even from senior government ministers, and are they concentrated in the hands of influential security officers?

The decision to taken away such authorities are not based on objective judgement or facts, nor are they set to serve national interests. They are designed to serve personal goals and vested-interest groups.

Is it under the state of law and institutions that the biggest political bloc, with the biggest party and the largest number of representatives in Parliament is denied its constitutional right to take its right place in the government?

The democratic process in our country has been lagging behind. The retreat started with the clear rigging of parliamentary elections in 1993, when all means were used to rig the people's will.

The democratic retreat continued during the previous government's term in office, where opposition groups were prevented from voicing their opinion on the so-called peace process at a time when the government had mobilised the media to canvass support for the official position, which portrayed the peace treaty as a landmark historic achievement where all rights have been restored.

Under the peace treaty people were promised a lot in terms of overcoming poverty and unemployment in addition to achieving development and prosperity. However, the nation has woken up at the bitter fact, which transformed its dreams of a better life into a mirage reflected in the form of increasing poverty and unemployment, dilution of salaries of civil servants.

Does social justice and equality allow cabinet ministers to appoint people in senior government posts on the basis of factional, regional and electoral interests? Does the comprehensive reform referred to, in the government's statement

means that the qualified, strong and honest people be excluded from appointment in senior positions?

You have an enormous task ahead of you, Mr. Prime Minister.

Given this situation, does your government have a genuine desire and willingness to affect a real change that will go beyond the change in the language or slogan and statements to cover the government's policy and work style?

Having looked at the government's statement, we have not found any actual trends towards the change referred to in the introductory paragraph.

The people as well as we have expected a government change, but we have not expected the mere change of the person of the prime minister while leaving half of the previous cabinet ministers in the new government.

The current stage requires a real government change, a change in the government members and its programmes, a government representing the political powers and geographic areas.

It requires a government which is fully aware of the dangerous consequences of normalisation of relations with the enemy... a government that respects public freedoms and citizens rights.

The current stage requires a government that respects democratic practices and seeks to enhance them in real terms... a government which respects the right of the opposition groups to express their views and opinion by all means, guaranteed by the Constitution. We need a government which seeks seriously to enhance Jordan's ties with its Arab and Islamic brethren, a government whose media reflect the people's identity, thought, belief, and Islamic values.

The current stage requires a government capable of addressing people's concerns and the deeply-rooted problems of poverty, unemployment by introducing a comprehensive plan, including a package of projects and plans rather than speeches and slogans.

The current stage requires a government which will direct special attention to building the Armed Forces and equipping them with the latest arms to enable them to perform their duty in defending the homeland, a government that seeks to bolster national unity and do its utmost to alleviate the suffering of our brothers in the West Bank.

The current stage requires a government that will introduce a new and modern election law, eliminating all restrictions to the people's will.

**Deputy Bassam Haddadin** (Zarqa — Hashdi)

Delivered also on behalf of Mustafa Shneikat.

(Balqa — the Jordan People's Democratic Party)

This address also represents the views of the following parties:

The Jordan Democratic Socialist Party;

The Jordan Arab Democratic Party;

The Jordan Progressive Democratic Party;

(Hashdi)

Our positive impressions about the government have vanished when we saw that the government structure was, with all respect, based on apolitical and on very traditional principles. In addition to not conforming with the priorities of the stage mentioned in the letter of designation by the King.

The policy statement was also traditional and void of the spirit of comprehensive reform. Most of its ideas did not specify the mechanisms that would give it the needed credibility and the scientific basis for monitoring the performance of the government.

The statement included some points that might converge with public demands without specifying their content which keeps them open to all interpretation. This includes its mention of the need to revise the Parliamentary elections law, the public meetings law and the criminal law. The promise to revise these laws did not define which aspects of the laws would be changed. In the elections law for example, what is targeted? Is it the one-person, one-vote or just marginal amendments to the number of parliamentary seats in view of the new administrative divisions?

Revising or amending any law does not guarantee that the amendment will be democratic.

In addition, one of the biggest problems in dealing with the consecutive governments is related to the level of their commitment to active laws, including legislation related to democratic rights and freedoms.

The problem facing political movements regarding the 1953 public meetings law is not related to the content of the law but to the implementation of the law itself. This law stipulates that before holding any public meeting, all is required is to inform (the concerned authorities) 48 hours before the time for the meeting. Convening the meeting is not contingent on the approval of any party, according to the law.

The same applies to the National Charter. The statement announces commitment to the National Charter as an intellectual reference. Nice talk!

But we do not find the required translation for this promise in the ministerial statement...

Concerning the hot political issue, the issue of the political settlement and the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, they were mentioned shyly without having the statement explaining to us the government's stand on Israel's expansion of settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

It also did not define the Jordanian procedures that (will be taken) in case Israel continues to daily affirm its annexation of Jerusalem and annexing vast areas. Why did not the statement explain to us what the government would do about the Israeli cold-shouldering of the right of the displaced to return and Israel's refusal to return the refugees to their lands?

In the socio-economic field, it is still being affirmed that the government would re-commit to implement the so-called economic reform programme — which means the continuation of surrender to the orders and directives of the International Monetary Fund, which aims to impose more taxes and a gradual cancellation of food subsidies.

This also means the continuation of the process of privatising several successful institutions which turn in considerable profits benefiting the state budget. This privatisation policy will only make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

Mr. speaker, dear colleagues. This government is not fit for the current state. It is not the government of change aspired by the people. It is the government of continuation, inspired by the policies of the previous governments. It is not a government that was formed on political principles and it did not aim to expand the basis of rule.

Of the most dangerous aspects in the government structure is the size of parliamentary representation in it (more than half) and this aimed only to win the government a parliamentary cover which makes us fear that we will eventually have two governments instead of one.

We need change in policies. Not change in governments. This change will not take place except when governments are based on political principles.

(The challenges facing the country) make us call for forming a national coalition government widening the basis of governing and enhancing national unity.

This is the way to change as we see it in the parties of democratic opposition. And we cannot give our confidence to any other way.

**Abd Mouna Al Nahar** (Amman's fifth district)

"The government statement promised the building of institutions of democracy. Excerpts from the rest of the speeches that deputies made in the confidence session will be published tomorrow. They could not be printed today for technical reasons."



## Iraq's economy would bounce if sanctions lifted

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's economy, devastated by U.N. imposed economic sanctions, would soon rebound if curbs on its oil exports were removed, diplomats say.

The country would not be awash with petrodollars but the government of President Saddam Hussein would have enough oil revenue to boost the economy, at present in the grip of hyper-inflation and acute shortages of food and medicine, they said.

In the event of the U.N. Security Council easing or lifting the sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Baghdad still faces the payment of hefty reparations and must service debt.

"They (Iraqis) are secretive about their potential for (oil) exports. What is certain is that activity in the oil sector has not stopped despite the embargo," a diplomat close to Iraqi oil circles said.

Iraq oil officials say that despite sanctions they are working to expand output and export capabilities beyond the pre-Gulf war output of some 3.5 million barrels per day (b/d), above their official OPEC quota of 3.1 million b/d.

They also say they will ask for additional quota from the

Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to make up for the losses due to sanctions, estimated at about \$50 billion.

Iraq's Oil Minister Safa Hadi Jawad said this month that oil facilities wrecked in the 1991 Gulf war, when a U.S.-led allied force pushed Iraq out of Kuwait, had been fully repaired and Iraq aimed to become the world's second largest exporter — after Saudi Arabia — once the sanctions are lifted.

Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz in published remarks this month said the possibility of the Security Council easing sanctions at its 60-day review was now "a hot issue" and he expected action by May.

Diplomats said Baghdad was paying the utmost attention to maintenance of oil wells, with Western technicians much in evidence in the Iraqi capital.

However, the rosy scenario which Iraq hopes for faces obstacles.

The diplomat close to oil circles said even if the oil sanctions were lifted Iraq would face an uphill struggle to regain — let alone increase — its quota.

"All those (member) coun-

tries must sacrifice part of the quota they fought for so much. Two of its arch foes in OPEC, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, will have to reduce production and it will be hard to convince them," he pointed out.

Optimistic Iraqi oil officials even say they would aim for production of six million b/d by the end of the century. Given Iraq's huge reserves the diplomats said the figure was not beyond reach.

Even at the pre-1990 level of some three million b/d of exports, diplomats agree Iraq would be able to start development projects after paying reparations and servicing debts.

At the current price of around \$16 a barrel, Iraq would earn about \$17 billion a year. The U.N. would deduct 30 per cent for reparations.

"With \$13 billion Iraq will still have enough money to service debts, continue with projects and initiate new ones," the diplomat said.

First though the U.N. sanctions must be lifted and diplomats say the United States, which engineered the curbs, shows no sign of easing its hostility to President Saddam.

## Daily: Iran headed towards economic 'disaster'

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran is gripped by an unprecedented economic crisis and could be headed towards a "disaster" if the government fails to regain control of the situation, a newspaper warned here Sunday.

"The situation is certainly out of control," said the English-language Kayhan International in an editorial entitled "Economic Chaos."

"Amid all the confusion... the government is emerging as a toothless tiger."

The daily blasted the economic liberalisation programme pursued by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani as a move which had led to "soaring inflation, corruption

and financial mismanagement."

"If this economic philosophy is not abandoned soon, it will soon turn into a disaster," it said.

Kayhan blamed the public sector mainly for the inflation which reached 35 per cent last year, according to official figures, and double that amount based on independent estimates.

It also blasted policies which led to "major financial irregularities, misappropriation of public funds and graft at top levels."

The parliament launched an investigation two weeks ago into the biggest ever embezzlement in an Iranian

state bank, Saderat.

"What the president and his ministers tell the people on the television and at public rallies does not conform to the (realities) of everyday life," the paper added.

Kayhan's editorial echoed scathing attacks launched against the government in recent days amid mounting economic difficulties.

The country's national currency, the rial, has lost up to 40 per cent of its value against major foreign currencies and gold in just a few weeks. The situation has been accompanied by a sharp rise in food prices, with some doubling in a matter of days.

Another English-language daily, Iran News, also blasted the "lack of serious and solid" action in dealing with the country's economic ills, saying "hasty, contradictory and uncalculated decisions" had led to the crisis.

"We continue to accuse economic saboteurs and plotters in having a hand in our economic crisis," it said.

"Such remarks can not solve our problems and can only debilitate the government."

On the financial side, creditors rescheduled \$12.7 billion overdue Iranian short- and medium-term foreign debts last year, central bank governor Mohsen Nurbakhsh

said Saturday.

Mr. Nurbakhsh, quoted by Iranian state radio, said \$12.7 billion of the country's \$15 billion debt arrears had been rescheduled to be paid back within five or six years.

Iran has a total foreign debt estimated at around \$30 billion.

The central bank negotiated the rescheduling of Iran's short-term debts owed to more than 20 countries last year.

The payments are expected to consume as much as \$7 billion of the country's \$16 to \$17 billion hard currency earnings each year until the end of the century.

## Arab Gulf states enforcing taxes to heal economies

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states are enforcing taxes and lifting generous subsidies to revive their economies that have been hurt by low oil prices and huge payments for the liberation of Kuwait from Iraq.

Apparently not expecting any major increase in crude prices in the near future, the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have opted for boosting non-oil income to spur growth, tackle a persistent budget deficit and reverse a negative trend in their balance of payments.

After decades of heavy subsidies, they have started to cut such allocations on some sectors and remove them on others, introduce fees on once-free government services and raise them on existing services.

The six nations have ruled out imposing income taxes on individuals as they fear this could trigger a mass exodus of skilled foreign labour. But last year Oman enforced corporate taxes while Kuwait

is contemplating such a move.

"The government is considering enforcing corporate taxes and sales taxes on Kuwaiti companies as well as increasing customs tariffs as part of reforms designed to wipe out the budget deficit," the Kuwaiti daily Al Watan said.

On Thursday, Kuwaiti Finance Minister Nasser Al Rohdhan said the government had decided to raise fees on electricity, water, telephone and health services to rationalise their use and tackle the budget deficit.

Kuwait was hit hard by the 1990 Iraqi invasion as it was forced to drain nearly 60 per cent of its overseas reserves of more than \$100 billion to finance a U.S.-led blitzkrieg to end the seven-month occupation in early 1991.

Although the northern Gulf country has managed to rehabilitate its oil sector, its coffers still reel under the war bill and repayment of its debt.

Kuwait said last week it planned to slash the 1995-1996 budget deficit by around one third from the current year's shortfall of \$5.7 billion.

The measures, targeting a deficit-free budget by the year 2000, including reducing expenditure and raising non-oil revenue.

Saudi Arabia, the world's leading oil producer and exporter, has also announced a series of indirect taxes to bridge its budget gap and end the growing reliance on borrowing.

Announcing its 1995 budget last month, the kingdom said it was hiking petrol prices and electricity, water and telephone charges. The measures, the most sweeping in a decade, also included increases in fares of internal flights.

Saudi Arabia introduced direct income taxes eight years ago but quickly cancelled them after they sparked mass resignations by fore-

igners, who account for more than half its four-million-strong workforce.

"Some sectors in Saudi Arabia, like farming, are still heavily subsidised but they could be reduced in future," a Gulf banker said.

The Saudis apparently did not want to announce all measures at the same time as this could cause indignation by the citizens who are used to luxury.

Bahrain already relies heavily on taxes given its small oil wealth while Qatar is considering introducing more fees on services.

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the government last year announced large increases in fees on a wide range of services, including health, education, residence and visit visas, traffic and trade licences. Bankers said they expected such in-

crease, enforced this year, to fetch the UAE more than \$500 million a year, far higher than its projected 1994 budget deficit.

The tax measures in the GCC, coupled with spending cuts, will likely push down the combined budget deficit to its lowest level since the 1991 Gulf war.

Bankers projected the 1995 shortfall at between \$9 billion and \$10 billion, compared with \$18 billion in 1994, \$14.6 billion in 1993, and \$17.1 billion in 1992. In 1991, the GCC deficit hit a record \$55 billion because of the Gulf war bill.

According to the state-run Emirates Industrial Bank, GCC oil earnings declined to \$70 billion in 1994 from \$74 billion in 1993 due to lower crude prices. This compares with more than \$180 billion in 1981.

## Gulf downturn darkens Bahrain's growth prospects

MANAMA (R) — The small Gulf island state of Bahrain, poor in energy and other natural resources, is feeling the pinch of reliance on oil-rich neighbours suffering an economic downturn, economists and bankers said.

Estimates for 1995 growth range from 0.5 per cent to three per cent but economists tend to opt for the lower end, saying prospects have further darkened since most of the estimates were made late last year.

Bankers said two months of intermittent civil unrest had impacted little on the economy overall but businessmen were naturally more cautious despite the small-scale nature of the troubles.

The government's apparent success in suppressing dissent among the island's large Shiite Muslim community should quickly restore confidence unless there were new attacks on the homes and property of Western expatriates, they said.

Senior bank managers strenuously denied persistent rumours within and outside Bahrain that banks had suspended lines of credit but dealers said some foreign banks had slightly reduced exposure to Bahrain.

"Nothing too serious," one dealer commented, saying that a bank which had, for

example, allowed its dealers to do business worth \$50 million with Bahrain institutions might as a precaution have cut this limit to \$40 million.

One Western economic attaché also said there was no real evidence of the unrest stopping visiting businessmen but there was a wait-and-see attitude linked more to the Gulf downturn.

"The prospects for growth in 1995 and 1996 were poor even before the rioting," one senior banker said of the unrest that erupted in December.

Economists listed the main reasons for Bahrain's problems as the economic slowdown in giant neighbour Saudi Arabia and other Gulf oil states pinched by weak oil prices and the persistent Bahraini current account and budget deficits.

Bahrain's economy is heavily dependent on Saudi Arabia, both as a provider of budget support and as a customer for the banking and other services based in the small state of some 600,000.

A growth tourism industry is also largely dependent on strictly Muslim Saudi Arabia. Saudi residents, both Saudis and foreign expatriates, flock for entertainment and diversion to more liberal Bahrain across a causeway to the Saudi mainland only a few

kilometres away.

Hotels and real-estate owners said there was evidence of a slowdown in this business.

Diplomats said Bahrain was hoping for increased budget assistance mainly from Saudi Arabia, but also from Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Such aid was provided discreetly in the past — without fanfare or publicity about the figures involved but diplomats said it had apparently been declining.

Pledges have been expected when Arab Gulf leaders met in Bahrain last month. But no word has yet leaked on whether Bahrain's cash-strapped neighbours were rushing to help its flagging economy in the face of unusual unrest.

Bahrain confirmed its weak financial position with a state budget that foresaw a five per cent cut in government spending this year. But with revenues expected to fall by 13 per cent, the budget deficit was forecast to widen to 122 million dinars (\$325 million) from 74 million dinars (\$195 million) in 1994.

Bankers and economists praised government efforts to encourage private business and develop a more sophisticated financial market, including a liberalised stock exchange.

## Record investment brings goal of 'Singapore unlimited' closer

SINGAPORE (AP) — Singapore's manufacturing sector attracted record investments last year and officials said the city-state will work harder in 1995 to achieve the goal of "Singapore unlimited."

Manufacturing investment commitments in fixed assets rocketed 49 per cent to 5.8 billion Singapore dollars (\$3.9 billion) in 1994 compared to 3.9 billion dollars (\$2.6 billion) in 1993, the Economic Development Board (EDB) said in a year-end review.

"For Singapore unlimited to be implemented successfully, this year will see all government agencies working very closely together in a Singapore Inc. manner," an EDB Chairman Philip Yeo told reporters.

The EDB said that the services sector also posted record gains as total business spending totaled 582.5 mil-

lion dollars (\$398 million). Fixed asset investments in services amounted to 443 million dollars (\$303 million) in 1994 compared to 352 million dollars (\$241 million) in 1993.

Of late, increasing standards of living and education has created a tight labour situation for manufacturers, who also have been affected by a strengthening currency.

Mr. Yeo said Singapore will have to guard against competition from neighbouring Malaysia and other nations in the region like Vietnam and Indonesia, which do not yet suffer from these disadvantages.

Still, the virtual lack of red tape and corruption are Singapore's best attractions, he said.

If things don't work out right for investors in Singapore, "I shoot my officers. In other countries they shoot the investors," Mr. Yeo said in a lighter vein.

Singapore fulfil its vision of becoming a developed country.

Offering first-class infrastructure, strategic location and numerous tax incentives, Singapore hosts about 3,000 multinational companies, largely in the chemicals, electronics and electrical sectors.

By far, the largest investor remains the United States with American companies holding fixed assets worth 2.4 billion dollars (\$1.6 billion) in the manufacturing sector, or nearly 42 per cent of the total commitments from around the world.

"The high investment level reflects the capabilities and attractiveness of Singapore as a business location in a buoyant Asia Pacific region," EDB Chairman Philip Yeo told reporters.

The EDB said that the services sector also posted record gains as total business spending totaled 582.5 mil-

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JANUARY 30, 1995  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The New Moon in Aquarius seizes Jupiter and conjuncts the Sun promotes domestic peace and happiness, bringing pleasant temperaments and making a good time to conduct business.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Morning is fine for developing worldly interests, but later don't commit yourself to anything which will not be productive.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You know how to gain whatever you desire are, so get busy early on such, but don't be too demanding others.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make plans wisely and later be more willing to compromise with others. Come to an understanding with your mate.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can gain a cherished wish early in the day, then find ways of helping others who are in need.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get backing from a bigwig in the morning since later you could not reach this busy person or any others. Use tact.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You see many good ways of advancing in your career early but later may find it rough sledding. A new contact may be disappointing.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) It is important that you handle responsibilities in a conscientious manner so that others do not disapprove of you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Steer clear of a confrontation with an associate otherwise this could lead to a severance of connections.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Career activities can be completed very well early in the day, but problematical affairs may arise to delay you. Remain poised.

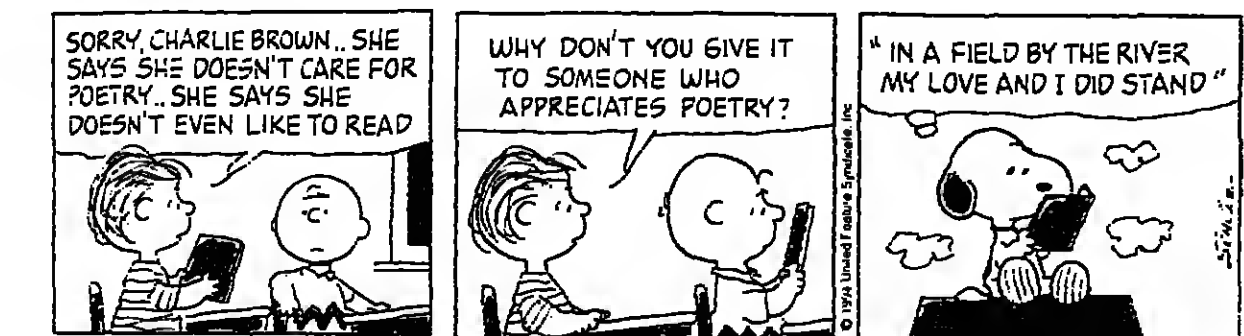
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) State whatever amusements you want to engage in with friends and they soon agree and you can have a fine time.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Do favours for kin in the morning and they will be grateful, but later you may find they become difficult to handle.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Morning is fine for handling communications well and then you can later study information you have received.

Birthstone of January: Garnet — Rose Quartz

## Peanuts



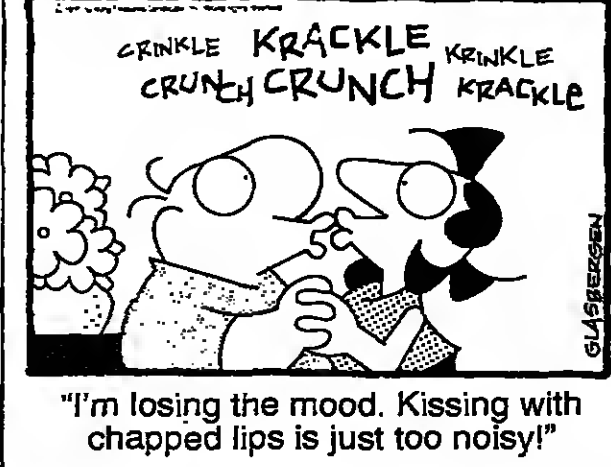
## Andy Capp



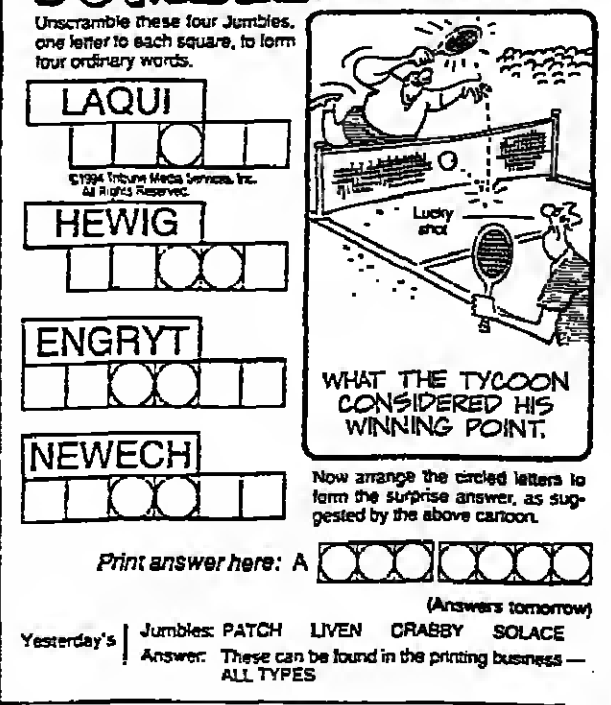
## Mutt'n'Jeff



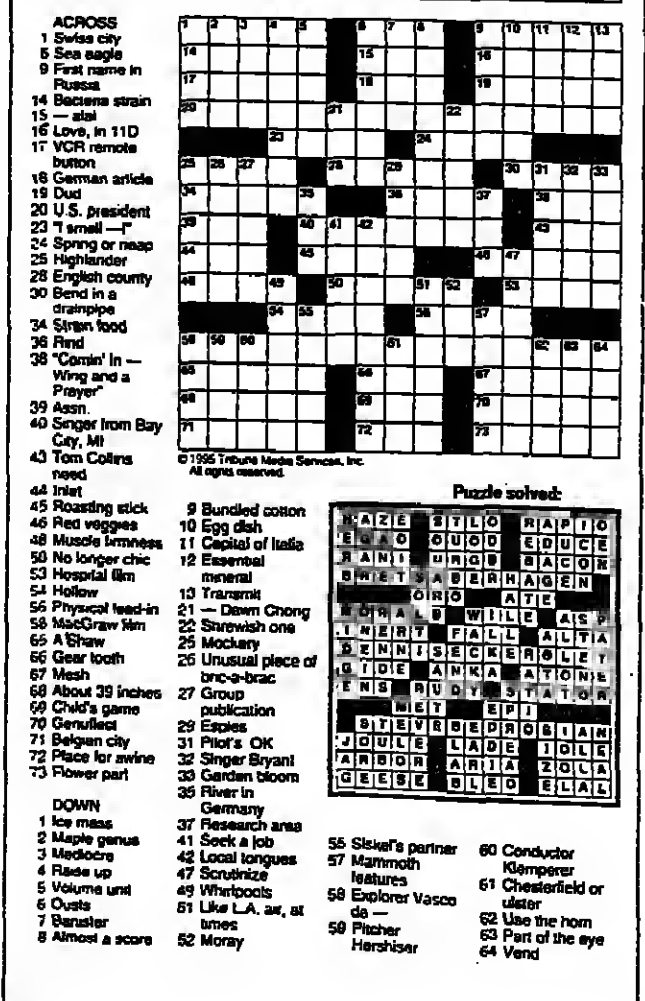
## THE BETTER HALF, By Glasbergen



## JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



## THE Daily Crossword by Chuck Deodone





**'disaster'**  
said Saturday.  
Mr. Nurbakhsh, quoted  
Iranian state radio, said 20  
billion of the country's  
Iran's short-term debt  
rescheduled to be paid  
within five or six years.  
Iran has a total foreign  
debt estimated at around  
\$100 billion.  
The central bank re-  
scheduled Iran's short-term debt  
to more than 30 countries.  
The payments are expected  
to consume as much as 10  
percent of the country's GNP  
each year, and end of the century.

## business daily beat

A review  
of economic news  
from the Arabic press

### Swindle suspected in exports to U.S.

★ An investigation committee, comprising members from the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Customs Department, is searching for the party which was behind the export of a large shipment of shirts from Jordan to the U.S. during the past eight months. The volume, estimated at two million shirts, has aroused fears of the U.S. imposing a quota on Jordan's exports of shirts similar to those quotas imposed on some other Arab countries. Jordanian industrialists suspect that some Asian companies have forged Jordanian certificates of origin and exported the shirts which were not made in Jordan to the U.S. market to circumvent the quotas imposed on their countries. The committee is expected to recommend that certificates of origin be issued only from the Amman Chamber of Industry. Exports from the free zone are not considered Jordanian-made goods in accordance with free-zone laws applied in the Kingdom (Al Aswad).

★ The Ministry of Supply is expected to allow the private sector to import frozen meat from India before the beginning of Ramadan. Imports, however, will be restricted to areas that were not affected by the plague which swept some parts of India six months ago (Al Dustour).

★ The Ministry of Industry and Trade is preparing lists of Palestinian products which will be exempted from Jordanian customs, taxes and other fees. Other lists will include Palestinian products which will be allowed into the Kingdom but will be subject to customs and taxes (Al Ra'i).

★ The total value of projects executed through the Government Tenders Department in 1994 amounted to JD 117 million. The water and sewage projects ranked first, for JD 46 million, followed by JD 32 million worth of projects for the education sector. JD 15 million went for projects in the transport and JD 13 million for the communication sector. Other projects were for supply (JD 3.1 million) and housing (JD 3.1 million). The department, which has 200 classified contractors, 592 licensed contractors and 10 consultants (Al Dustour).

★ It is expected that the government will drop all the lawsuits accumulated over the years against those who owe it less than JD 100 as following up on those cases costs the state more (Al Dustour).

★ Al Azraq Cooperative Society agreed to resume salt supplies to bakeries until March 1 when the Ministry of Supply is to rule on whether salt prices should be raised or not. Bakeries consume about 500 tonnes of salt each month. The society is demanding that the price of a kilogram of salt be increased from 130 fils to 160 fils for the consumers and from JD 30 per tonne to JD 75 per tonne for bakeries (Al Dustour).

★ Ramtha Municipality is in the red by JD 1,305,000. The municipality is owed JD 217,000 but could only collect JD 75,000 in three months. Efforts are underway to collect the remaining amounts (Al Ra'i).

★ The Tourism Investment Department of the Social Security Corporation plans to expand and modernise its hotels and resorts this year for a total cost of JD 4.5 million. The department is also conducting technical and economic studies to set up a beach spa in the Dead Sea area (Al Ra'i).

## Abu Dhabi port grows but still dwarfed by Dubai

ABU DHABI (R) — Abu Dhabi's Port Zaid is attracting more shipping firms than the lion's share of regional cargo business will stay with bigger ports in Dubai, shipping sources have said.  
"There's no potential out of Abu Dhabi. It takes time (to sail there) and the times cannot afford it," said one Dubai-based official at an international shipping line.  
"But if the service (from Port Zaid) became attractive because of costs and the big boys come in, then the trade will take another look," he told Reuters.  
Abu Dhabi and Dubai are both members of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Dubai, which is closer to the mouth of the Gulf, became the world's 14th busiest container port in 1994.  
Abu Dhabi's Port Zaid handled 26 per cent more tonnage in 1994 than in the previous year, Abu Dhabi Seaport Authority marketing director Shamsul Qamar told Reuters.  
But the total of 1.78 million tonnes handled by Port Zaid in 1994 is dwarfed by the more than 25 million tonnes handled the same year by Dubai's two ports, Jebel Ali and Port Rashid.  
"Dubai's the Rotterdam of the Gulf," said an Abu Dhabi-based shipping company official. "Traders bring in goods in bulk and trade them. Abu Dhabi's never been like that."  
Mr. Qamar said the number of firms using Port Zaid was now 45, up from 34 in 1992, after Italy's Messina Shipping Line signed up to use it as a distribution hub for the upper Gulf and Indian subcontinent.  
Port Zaid offers incentives like low fees and discounts for bunker fuel which start between five and 10 per cent.  
"That's the main attraction, and the published tariff is much lower than in some areas, especially for trans-shipment," Mr. Qamar said.  
The authority, which markets the port under the Arabic name Mina Zaid, will add two gantry cranes to the existing three this year.  
"That will make quite a big difference — you can handle two big ships and one small one," said the Abu Dhabi-based shipper.

### Financial Markets

Jordan Times  
In co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

### Foreign Exchange Market Summary (January 23 - January 27, 1995)

AMMAN — The dollar rose marginally against the mark at the end of last week, while stabilising against the yen and sterling. It ended the week 0.22 per cent higher against the mark.

The dollar appreciated against the mark and yen Monday, while depreciating against sterling. Reports indicated that traders were concerned over the recent earthquake that hit Japan and the Mexican financial crisis. As a result, most financial markets suffered from these factors.

The U.S. unit depreciated marginally against other major currencies Tuesday. Its depreciation came on the back of traders' anticipation for speeches by the chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank, Mr. Greenspan, and the U.S. treasury secretary to be given before the American Congress the following day.

The dollar continued its depreciation against the yen Wednesday, while appreciating against European currencies. Though the dollar has depreciated to 1,5035 marks during early trading hours, its lowest level against the German currency since two and half months; however, it rose back to close around its opening levels later that day. The dollar's movement was attributed to Mr. Greenspan's speech, as he stated that the Fed succeeded in curbing inflation.

His statement was misinterpreted as the Fed will not raise its short term interest rates on its next meeting Tuesday 31/1/1995. However, the dollar rose later, when investors realised that the Fed might tighten the monetary policy to sustain low levels of inflation. Meanwhile, news that a missile fired mistakenly from Norway towards Russia affected the dollar positively.

On Thursday, the U.S. units stabilised against other major currencies. It fell during early trading hours, however, it rose back to its opening levels later that day. Its revival came in view of news that the IMF signed an agreement to extend \$7.75 billion loan to Mexico on Wednesday 12/1/1995.

At the end of the week, the dollar depreciated marginally against the mark and yen, while appreciating against sterling. Heated debate in the U.S. Congress on whether to extend loan guarantees to Mexico affected the dollar negatively. Meanwhile, investors paid little attention to the U.S. GDP figures showing an annualised increase of 4.5 per cent for the fourth quarter of 1994 and thus raising the annual growth to 4.0 per cent, the highest growth since 10 years. Moreover, these figures showed that the GDP price component increased by 1.6 per cent, its lowest level since 30 years.

The U.S. unit, thus, ended the week at 1.5150 marks, 99.38 yen and at \$1.5895 to sterling.

### New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	20/1/95	27/1/95	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.5888	1.5895	0.045
Deutsche Mark	1.5116	1.5150	0.2212
Swiss Franc	1.2702	1.2736	0.2715
French Franc	5.2335	5.2595	0.4918
Japanese Yen	99.42	99.38	0.042

### Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	1-Month (%)	3-Month (%)	6-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.75	6.93	5.75	7.12
Sterling Pound	5.81	6.37	6.00	7.56
Deutsche Mark	4.66	5.62	4.68	5.50
Swiss Franc	3.56	4.43	3.50	4.37
French Franc	5.37	6.62	5.31	6.43
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.37	2.06	2.18

### Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6970	0.6990
Sterling Pound	1.1057	1.1112
Deutsche Mark	0.4460	0.4623
Swiss Franc	0.5465	0.5492
French Franc	0.1324	0.1331
Japanese Yen	0.7017	0.7052
Dutch Guilder	0.4101	0.4122
Swedish Krona	0.0434	0.0436
Italian Lira	0.0434	0.0436
Belgian Franc	0.0434	0.0436

## Jordan and Hebron sign accords

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Commerce and the Hebron Chamber of Industry and Trade in the West Bank Sunday signed an agreement to cooperate in trade, to provide facilities for investors by business communities and to carry out joint economic ventures.  
The two sides agreed to exchange information and expertise towards boosting their national economies, to conduct direct consultations on trade and to coordinate their positions at Arab and foreign meetings.  
The two chambers will cooperate in organising joint exhibitions displaying national industries and to publish information and reports about each other's activities.  
They also agreed to organise regular visits and training courses for employees of the Hebron chamber and to facilitate the Hebron chamber's endeavours in Jordan. The two chambers will cooperate in establishing an integrated economic base and economic deals concluded by the private sectors from the two sides.

Mr. Abu Hassan expressed his readiness to extend any assistance to the Hebron chamber.

## Jordanian firm gets ISO 9000 quality certificate

By Khattab Salman  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Among all Jordanian export oriented companies, only one company meets international standard qualifications, according to the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centre Corporation (JEDCO).

Jordan Lift Company owned by businessman Moris Swailha was awarded the ISO 9000 certificate some two weeks ago by the London-based Lloyds Register to become the first Jordanian company to be awarded the international standardisation organisation certification. Yahya Tamimi, marketing specialist at JEDCO said Sunday.

Mr. Tamimi told the Jordan Times that more and more Jordanian companies are becoming more interested in obtaining the certificate that would ensure them more to international markets.

He noted that Jordan lagged behind other Arab countries like the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, and Saudi Arabia which have a larger number of certified companies.

"There are 36 companies in the UAE, 14 in Egypt, and 20 in Saudi Arabia which have been awarded the certificate," Mr. Tamimi said.

According to the Geneva-based International Trade Centre (ITC) the ISO 9000 is a quality certificate awarded to companies that meet a series of standards set by the international organisation for standardisation (ISO).

The ITC reported that 62 countries worldwide have adopted the ISO 9000 standards as national standards by mid-1994.

Mr. Tamimi said the government is currently considering setting an office at JEDCO to inform Jordanian companies about the ISO 9000, through noting that the procedure is very costly and that the German government, for example, is paying \$6 billion annually to get German companies certified. "We do not have any official body to supervise this

issue, and instead, any Jordanian company pursuing this certification has to invite international registers to come to Jordan, at the companies own expense," Mr. Tamimi explained.

The Jordan Lift Company was visited four times by Lloyds representatives before being awarded the certificate.

More than 120 Jordanian businessmen attended a JEDCO seminar Saturday where E. Sierra of the ITC explained to Jordanian businessmen the advantages of obtaining the ISO 9000 standards.

According to Mr. Sierra, the development of quality products, testing, inspection and certification activities, including the corresponding certification and accreditation mechanisms and the introduction of efficient quality management systems at the supplier level are all becoming more and more an essential element in international trade.

He added that national authorities, purchasers and consumers as well, want to be assured beforehand that products comply with quality requirements or technical regulations in relation to fitness for use, safety, reliability, environmental aspects, packaging materials, labelling, etc.

This assurance can only be satisfactory when it is based on mutual confidence between the trading partners (suppliers and purchasers), that the products are made according to and comply with specified requirements or regulations, are produced or manufactured by enterprises which possess a well-established and recognisable quality assurance system, and are certified by impartial competent and recognised bodies (third party testing, inspection, and certification bodies) as conforming to the required standards, specifications or technical regulations.

Such bodies are the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Laboratory Accreditation Conference (ILAC), and the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN).

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SEKTOR 2				
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 29/01/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	NEW CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2100	9232	4,410	4,400
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	2600	10884	4,220	4,180
BANK OF JORDAN	11257	39970	3,500	3,550
THE HOUSING BANK	10850	65100	6,050	6,000
JORDAN GULF BANK	500	760	1,550	1,520
JORDAN ISLAND BANK	10250	39999	3,630	3,600
SEKTOR 2 INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	850	2573	2,750	3,150
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,600	57238	1,430	1,360
BANKS SECTOR	80077	225555	INDEX NUMBER: 159.36	CHANGE: -0.29%
UNITED INSURANCE	2250	6390	2,850	2,800
INSURANCE SECTOR	2250	6300	INDEX NUMBER: 136.68	CHANGE: -0.00%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	27115	4,630	1,560	1,520
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	5550	8025	1,470	1,440
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	2516	12577	5,000	5,000
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	750	2475	3,370	3,300
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1000	2250	2,300	2,260
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMERCE HOTELS	4000	9480	2,390	2,360
ARAB LETTERS FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	575	2017	3,600	3,510
SERVICES SECTOR	41506	78463	INDEX NUMBER: 131.55	CHANGE: -1.22%
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	3086	9070	2,950	2,940
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	750	2138	2,850	2,850
THE ARAB POTASH / NEW	800	4080	5,100	5,100
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	15070	18056	9,600	9,550
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	1600	6590	4,150	4,150
THE JORDAN WORTED MILLS	520	4058	7,850	7,800
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	850	4243	5,130	5,100
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	810	2146	2,650	2,650
RAPIA INDUSTRIES	200	542	2,750	2,710
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	9000	8938	1,010	990
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	500	3475	7,000	6,950
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	16000	15308	850	820
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	1350	1870	1,410	1,380
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	150	380	2,580	2,530
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACH/JMCO	2900	2294	600	790
JORDAN STEEL-CHIMICALS	650	1183	1,920	1,820
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	200	264	2,680	2,640
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	400	1662	4,170	4,150
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	43856	84047	INDEX NUMBER: 126.18	CHANGE: -0.39%
GRAND TOTAL	167689	393965	INDEX NUMBER: 142.61	CHANGE: -0.39%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		269470		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		312488		

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# Koissi takes home 3rd Grand Slam title

trude (AP) —

Agassi, the No. 2 seed, beat his fellow American 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (8-6), 6-4 in two hours, 36 minutes, absorbing a barrage of aces and wearing him down from the baseline.

It was Agassi's second successive Grand Slam title following his victory in the U.S. Open late last year.

The 24-year-old clinched his win in a typically flamboyant fashion — with an ace.

Agassi had not previously played in the Australian Open, but he went through the tournament dropping only one set.

"He was just too good for everyone and he deserves all the success he's got," Sampras said. "Andre hits the ball so early, I fought as hard as I could for two weeks and I came up a little bit short today."

"If he stays healthy he'll be a threat in every major tournament of the year."

Sampras, the top seed and defending champion, had two set points for a 2-1 lead during the third set tiebreaker and looked dejected after Agassi rallied to take it.

Sampras fell behind 3-0 in the tiebreaker, won the next four points and served for the set at 6-4 with a brilliant reflex volley past a stunned Agassi.

But Agassi then ripped a forehand return that nicked the net cord and skipped past Sampras for a winner. That was the first of four straight points Agassi won as he closed out the set with a backhand volley drop shot that spun away from Sampras.

"I think it came down to the third set. If I could have come back to win the tiebreaker it could have been different," Sampras said.

"I can walk out of here with my head up high that I fought hard and lost to a better player. I can accept that."

Sampras served 28 aces to 10 from Agassi, but he lost all five tiebreakers he played during the first Grand Slam tournament of the year.

Agassi made just 26 unforced errors to 50 by Sampras and frequently left the No. 1 seed rooted to the spot with his searing passing shots from both sides.

Sampras had 13 aces in the fourth set, but also made 15 errors.

Agassi, variously dubbed "Andre the giant killer" and "the pirate king", earned



Andre Agassi of the U.S. looks to his coach American Pete Sampras 4-6, 6-1, 7-6, (8-6), singles title on Sunday. Agassi beat fellow.

\$360,000 for his victory, while Sampras took home half that amount.

"I felt like it was a strange match," Agassi said. "You could never be sure who had the momentum."

It was Agassi's third Grand Slam title. He also won Wimbledon in 1992.

Sampras paid tribute to his seriously-ill coach Tim Gullikson, who had to return to the United States from Australia after a setback in the first week of the tournament.

Gullikson suffered an apparent stroke when he became dizzy and lost his speech and vision for most of a day.

"I just want to let him know I keep thinking about him. And that I wish he was here," Sampras said. "I've been praying for him the last couple of weeks."

Gullikson watched the match at home in Wheaton, Ill., after being discharged for the weekend from the University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center. More tests were scheduled Monday.

Agassi said he had great admiration for Sampras' reaction to the trauma of Gullikson's illness, saying his resolve had been "absolutely inspiring."

"We can all learn something from what Pete has managed to do," he said. "He's a class act. He's shown over the past couple of weeks why he is No. 1 in the world."

Agassi, who dressed throughout the tournament in wild, coloured clothing and wore a gypsy-style bandana, said he had benefited from his self-belief.

"It's the first time I've come to a Grand Slam and

really believed I could win it," he said.

"I got over a real big hump with that U.S. Open victory. That was a real big step for me."

Sampras, who still has an 8-7 career edge over Agassi, said he believes the two can develop a great rivalry.

"It has to be good for the game," he said. "Andre's the one guy who can get tennis on the front page of the newspapers and tennis needs that."

The Australian title was won by an American for the fourth year in a row, Jim Courier taking the title in 1992 and '93, and Sampras last year. It was also only the third time in the open era since 1968 that the Australian had an all-American final. Sampras beat Todd Martin a year ago, and in 1982 newly naturalised American Johan Kriek beat Steve Denton.

"He's played well the whole tournament," Agassi coach, Brad Gilbert said. "He came out and did what he wanted. He beat the guy he wanted to beat. He's improved a lot since the U.S. Open."

Immediately after his win, Agassi's thoughts turned to the French Open, the one major title to elude him. "Ironically, the one I haven't won yet is the one I was favoured in both finals," he said. "I want it."

Agassi was beaten finalist in Paris in 1990 and 1991. American Rick Leach and Natasha Zvereva of Belarus upset fifth seeds Gigi Fernandez and Cyril Suk to win the mixed doubles title earlier Sunday.

Leach and Zvereva, playing together for the first time, triumphed 7-6 (7-4), 6-7 (3-7), 6-4.

Mary Pierce kept the ball deep and pounced on Arantxa Sanchez Vicario's mistakes on Saturday to win the women's singles final — her first Grand Slam title.

Pierce, the No. 4 seed, defeated top-seeded Sanchez Vicario 6-3, 6-2 — a result that delayed Sanchez Vicario's bid to take over the No. 1 world ranking from the injured Steffi Graf.

Pierce, 20, avenged her loss to Sanchez Vicario in last year's French Open final and became the first Frenchwoman to win a Grand Slam singles title since Francoise Durr at the 1967 French Open and the first to win the Australian title.

Graf has announced that she will miss next week's Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo with the same injury. As a result of her withdrawal, Sanchez Vicario will leapfrog the German and take over as No. 1 when the rankings are issued on Feb. 6.

The win will see Pierce move up to a career-high NO. 3 ranking behind Graf and Sanchez Vicario.

The tournament, sponsored by Ford, offered total prize money of \$6.2 million.

**Australian Open notebook**

★ Former Australian Davis Cup captain Neale Fraser believes male tennis players should be paid more than their female counterparts.

Fraser, a former Wimbledon champion, said during the Australian Open that the current equal-pay deal discriminates against the men.

"They play better tennis. They play far more tennis. They attract bigger crowds and they dominate the television ratings. Yet they get paid the same as the ladies," Fraser said.

Fraser pointed to the marathon quarterfinal between world No. 1 Pete Sampras and compatriot Jim Courier as an example and contrasted Courier's entertainment value with that provided by women's quarterfinalist Angelica Gavaldon.

"Courier not only played a spectacular five-set match in the quarterfinals, he actually won more games than Gavaldon played," he said. "Yet they get the same pay — can that be fair?"

Of the four Grand Slam tournaments, the Australian and U.S. Opens offer equal prize money.

★ Pierce feted: Mary Pierce was inundated with text and fax messages after her victory over Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the women's singles final at the Australian Open.

Prime Minister Edouard Balladur sent Pierce his "very warm congratulations."

"You can be certain that all those who in our country like tennis share today your happiness," he said.

Sports Minister Michele Alliot-Marie was even more effusive.

"I congratulate you for this beautiful victory made with great skill and talent that puts you in the forefront today," she said. "You have just given women's tennis and French sports a brilliant victory of which we're all proud."

★ Rankings review: The chairman of the four Grand Slam tournaments have presented suggestions for changes to the current rankings system used by the ATP Tour, which is conducting a review of the system.

Under the current system players count only their best 14 tournament results for the year.

The Grand Slam committee believes the rankings system should include results from all tournaments to "maintain the integrity of every match."

The committee said it should also reflect the importance and status of the Grand Slams by awarding them at least double the points awarded to the highest-rated ATP Tour championship series tournament.

The committee would also like to see the Grand Slam Cup, which currently receives no points, be awarded an equivalent number to the ATP Tour world championship event.

★ Speedy servers: A speed-serving competition at the Australian Open raised U.S.\$8,700 for Ronald McDonald Children's Charities.



Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario lost the chance to become world No. 1 after losing the final to France's Mary Pierce (AFP photo)

## Tales of the stars at Australian Open

MELBOURNE (AFP) — One star was eclipsed and another born at a dramatic Australian Open which wound up here Sunday with Andre Agassi dethroning Pete Sampras.

The New Andre Age of tennis began memorably with a suitably street-smart, colourfully attired Agassi coming back from one set down to eclipse Sampras, the supreme fighter, 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (8/6), 6-4 in the men's singles final.

With his baggy shorts which need to be constantly hiked up, a piratical bandana and earrings, Agassi blends in easily with the current crop of sports heroes such as basketball's Michael Jordan and amazing Australian spin bowler Shane Warne.

"Andre is one guy who puts tennis on the front page and I think tennis needs that," Sampras said.

Saturday saw a new star firmly fixed in the tennis firmament when tall, elegant Frenchwoman Mary Pierce finally fulfilled her promise and captured her first Grand Slam title.

With powerful, groundstrokes from both sides, she coolly wiped out Spain's U.S. and French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in two sets.

The Australian press saw Pierce, with her movie star looks, as currently the hottest property in women's sports.

Sampras — human after all!

The tall, slim Sampras favours squeaky clean white tennis shirts and up to this tournament has been seen as a brilliant achiever, a metro-nome player who was a teeny bit dull.

Then came the quarter final with his old rival Jim Courier, which opened as Sampras' coach Tim Gullikson — already the victim of

two strokes — was flying back for treatment in the United States after being taken ill here.

Sampras was clearly disturbed and trailed 2-0. But he refused to roll over and, as he had done with Magnus Larsson in the previous round, fought back to two-all.

Then a phrase floated down from the warm night air: "Win it for your coach."

Sampras cracked. Pistol Pete, Mr. Automata, put his head in a big white towel and wept. He choked. His face contorted, he fought back tears, failed, and wiped at them with his hand.

And then, in one of sport's supreme moments, through the tears he served Jovian thunderbolts. Sampras, who is of Greek descent, took on his heroic stature as he fought his emotions and Courier and won.

More than tears:

There was more than tears on the court Friday after a thunderstorm raged around the Flinders Park complex where 11,000 people were comfortably ensconced under the huge roof watching Agassi's destroying Aaron Krickstein in a one-sided semi final.

Moments after they left the court, power failed throughout the complex. The nearby Yarra River rose, overwhelming storm drains and sending brown water cascading across the centre court as TV technicians raced to salvage valuable equipment.

Water also swamped the darkened press centre and the umpires quarters and brought play to a premature end as one wage backstroked across the court.

Male-bonding alive and well:

The bedrock belief of Australian male-bonding, mateship, flowered here. Seeing the distressed Sampras, Courier called gently across the court: "Are you alright Pete, we can do this

tomorrow."

In his moment of triumph Agassi: who can be as courtly as Southern senator, said that what Sampras had been showing on the court and on the court is absolutely inspiring and we can all learn from it. He's a class act."

And Sanchez Vicario's gesture as a defeated finalist was to kiss the winner of both championships.

Drama makes up for falls:

The dramas helped pull in the crowds. At least 300,000 people during the two weeks — down 10 per cent on 1993 — but this year's attendance topped 312,000.

Marquee names drew the fans, with Agassi, Michael Chang, Boris Becker and the year-old Swiss prodigy Martina Hingis competing.

But seeds were scattered in the first round with number three, German veteran Boris Becker and big-serving Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, number four, going down in flames in three sets.

Hingis lasted one round before she went back to school.

Key seeds in the bottom quarter of the "top" of the women's draw also toppled in the first round.

Germany's Sabine Hack fell in three sets. Fancied fifth seed Gabriela Sabatini lasted only two before surrendering to unseeded tour veteran Marianne Werdel Wintmeyer who went all the way to a semi-final execution by Sanchez Vicario.

In the fourth round, Werdel Wintmeyer thumped Angelica Gavaldon of Mexico who managed to hit on winning point in the tie and earned \$24,800.

This and the large number of matches decided in two sets threw a shadow over women's tennis which was only partially lifted by the women's two-set final which included two memorable games.

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♠AKQ J765 ♣KJ5  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 Pass 1 Pass  
What do you bid now?  
Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AQ872 ♠AQ ♠AQ8 ♠93  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 Pass 2 Pass  
What do you bid now?  
Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠K10985 ♠Q2 ♠KQ7  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
Pass Pass 1 Pass  
1 Pass 2 Pass  
What do you bid now?  
Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠AJT ♠AJ10 ♠J10842 ♠K8  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 Pass 2 Pass  
What do you bid now?  
Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AQ4 103 ♠K1084 ♠AK83  
What is your opening bid?  
Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠AKQJ10 ♠9 ♠KQ ♠J10983  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 Pass 1 NT Pass  
What do you bid now?

**NHL RESULTS**  
NEW YORK (R) — Results of National Hockey League games played on Saturday:

Detroit	5	Edmonton	2
Philadelphia	2	Boston	1
Florida	2	Hartford	1
Montreal	2	New Jersey	1
San Jose	3	Dallas	2
Tampa Bay	4	NY Islanders	1
Ottawa	3	Buffalo	2 (OT)
Quebec	2	NY Rangers	0
Toronto	2	Calgary	1
Vancouver	3	ST. Louis	1
Los Angeles	4	Winnipeg	2

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Jim Carrey in <b>THE MASK</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Najlaa Fathi & Farouq Al Fishawi — in <b>THE GARAGE</b> Arabic Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	<b>CONCORD "1"</b> Sylvester Stallone - Sharon Stone <b>THE SPECIALIST</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30 <b>CONCORD "2"</b> Harrison Ford - Whitney Houston — <b>THE BODYGUARD</b> Shows: 3, 5	SUM'A in the satirical play <b>HI CITIZEN</b> Composed and directed by Mohammad Al Shawaqfeh Daily from 8 p.m. Children's Play <b>The Ninja Turtles Show</b> Directed by Akram Abul Ragheb Daily at 10:30 p.m.	Presents <b>Abu Awwad</b> in the social comedy <b>Punctured Bag</b> The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day	Presents: <b>AL SALAM YA SALAM</b> at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed on Saturdays & Sundays	

**SPORTS**  
**Faisali, R...**  
last of th...  
By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — Al Faisali Al Ramtha...  
the season's soccer com...  
holders when they clash...  
the Jordan Youth Cup...  
holders Al Faisali...  
week to win their second...  
the year after winn...  
the season-opening...  
Winner's Cup mean...  
Al Ramtha will be...  
to clinch their first...  
of the season after...  
behind Al...  
in the first division...  
the fourth title — the Fed...  
Shield — was won...  
Al Hussein...  
Al Faisali, one of the...  
consist of teams in the...  
have a formidable...  
in the sport. They...  
won the first division...  
winning 25 times and...  
now aiming to win their...  
eighth Jordan Cup...  
Together with Al...  
Ramtha, the two teams...  
have alternated the Jordan...  
Cup since 1989.  
However, Al Faisali had...  
relatively slow season this...  
year and finished third in...  
the first division after winn...  
three of the game's...  
titles in 1992 and 1993.  
Al Ramtha last won the...  
Jordan Cup in 1990 and...  
1991 and last won the Fed...  
eration Shield in 1993.  
Al Ramtha reached the...  
final after overcoming Al...  
Faisali.

**Lakers beat...**  
ACOMA, Washington  
Elden Campbell...  
eight of his 27 points...  
over time as the Los...  
Angeles Lakers came from 17...  
points behind in the first...  
half to beat the Seattle Super...  
Sonics 128-121 Saturday.  
The Lakers overcame an...  
11-point deficit with two...  
minutes left in regulation to...  
win the score 111-111 and send...  
the game into overtime.  
In overtime, the Lakers...  
102, Hawks 93: In...  
overtime, Larry Johnson...  
and 20 points and Alonzo...  
Burning 19 as the Charlotte...  
Clippers beat Atlanta three...  
times after losing to the...  
Lakers at home.  
Stacy Augmon led the...  
Lakers with 22 points.  
In overtime, the Lakers...  
102, Hawks 93: In...  
overtime, Larry Johnson...  
and 20 points and Alonzo...  
Burning 19 as the Charlotte...  
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## Faisali, Ramtha battle for last of the season's titles

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Ramtha and Al Faisali Monday cap the season's soccer competitions when they clash for the Jordan Cup title at Al Hussein Youth City.

Titleholders Al Faisali will seek to win their second title of the year after winning the season-opening Cup Winner's Cup meanwhile, Al Ramtha will be aiming to clinch their first title of the season after finishing second behind Al Wihdat in the first division. The fourth title — was won by Al Hussein.

Al Faisali, one of the most consistent teams in the game, have a formidable record in the sport. They have won the first division an astonishing 25 times and are now aiming to win their record eighth Jordan Cup title. Together with Al Ramtha, the two teams have alternated the Jordan Cup since 1989.

However, Al Faisali had a relatively slow season this year and finished third in the first division after winning three of the game's titles in 1992 and 1993.

Al Ramtha last won the Jordan Cup in 1990 and 1991 and last won the Federation Shield in 1993.

Al Ramtha reached the final after overcoming Al

Arabi, while Al Faisali advanced after eliminating Al Hussein.

Al Arabi had hoped to repeat their 1986 Jordan Cup success when they overcame Al Jazireh to clinch their first major title. On their way to the final, Al Arabi had then eliminated Al Faisali, Al Ramtha and Al Hussein.

while Al Faisali eliminated Al Wihdat in Group 1. Al Arabi knocked out Kufroum and Al Ramtha beat Al Ahli in Group 2.

Only five teams have won the title since the competition was initiated in 1980: Al Faisali have clinched the title seven times, Al Wihdat three times, Al Ramtha twice, and Al Jazireh and

### Jordan Cup

The knockout competition had begun on Nov. 13 with 28 first and second division teams divided into two groups. All first division teams except for Al Karmel survived the first and second rounds.

In the quarterfinals, Al Hussein beat Al Jazireh

Al Arabi once each.

The biggest upset of this year's Jordan Cup was the elimination of current first division leaders Al Wihdat whose last major title was the Cup Winner's Cup in 1992 before winning the 1994 first division crown last Friday.

#### Jordan Cup record

1988	Faisali
1989	Faisali
1990	Wihdat
1991	Faisali
1992	Jazireh
1993	Wihdat
1994	Wihdat
1995	Arabi
1996	Faisali
1997	Wihdat
1998	Faisali
1999	Wihdat
2000	Faisali
2001	Ramtha
2002	Ramtha
2003	Faisali
2004	Faisali

## Lakers beat Sonics in overtime

TACOMA, Washington (AP) — Elden Campbell scored eight of his 27 points in overtime as the Los Angeles Lakers came from 17 points behind in the first half to beat the Seattle SuperSonics 128-121 Saturday.

The Lakers overcame an eight-point deficit with two minutes left in regulation to tie the score 111-111 and sent the game into overtime.

Hornets 102, Hawks 93: In Atlanta, Larry Johnson scored 20 points and Alonzo Mourning 19 as the Charlotte Hornets beat Atlanta three nights after losing to the Hawks at home.

Stacey Augmon led the Hawks with 22 points.

Bullets 93, Clippers 87: In Landover, Maryland, the Washington Bullets held the Los Angeles Clippers to four points in the final 5½ minutes — all on free throws — and

won for the first time this season when scoring fewer than 100 points.

Spurs 103, Nuggets 77: In San Antonio, Sean Elliott scored 31 points and David Robinson added 18 points, 12 rebounds and seven blocked shots to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a 103-77 victory over the Denver Nuggets Saturday night.

Elliott scored 24 points in the first half as the Spurs shot 56 per cent and led 56-36 by intermission. The Nuggets, losers of six of their last seven games, could get no closer than 9 the second half.

Jazz 111, Nets 94: In Salt Lake City, John Stockton moved past Oscar Robertson into second place on the NBA's career assists list, leading the Utah Jazz over New Jersey 111-94 Saturday night for their 12th straight win.

Stockton had 14 assists for a total of 9,897. He topped Robertson with his fifth assist of the game, a one-hand pass from the top of the key to Adam Keefe under the basket with 5:38 left in the second quarter.

Magic Johnson ranks No. 1 in the NBA with 9,921 assists.

Magic 107, Bucks 103: In Orlando, Florida, Dennis Scott's 27 points keyed the perimeter game, led the Magic over the Milwaukee Bucks.

The win kept the Magic undefeated at home in 21 games this season.

Horace Grant, returning to the starting lineup after missing a game with a hyperextended left knee, added 25 points and 14 rebounds. Shaquille O'Neal missed the game with a cut on his left foot.

## Round-the-world race resumes

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian favourite David Adams took an early lead in the BOC round-the-world solo yacht race as a fleet of 13 left Sydney Harbour on the third leg Sunday.

The leading boats are expected to reach the third-leg destination of Punta Del Este in Uruguay by the end of February after negotiating the treacherous winds and seas off the Argentine coast.

But first they will have to face the hazards of the Southern Ocean which race organisers say will include icebergs and snow squalls before rounding Cape Horn.

Sailing under a vivid summer sky and propelled by a six-to-eight knot northeasterly, British sailor Channah Vaughan in the Class II yacht Jimrod II led the fleet across the starting line.

Then Adams, whose yacht True Blue Class-II by 22 hours from Giovanni Soldini of Italy in Kodak after winning the first and second legs, found that puff of wind with the front followed by J.J. Provoyeur in Novell South Africa Provoyeur and Soldini.

However, 45 minutes after the start, Frenchman Jean-Luc Van Den Heede had taken the lead in his class-I yacht Vendee Enterprises, followed by American Steve Pettengill in Hunter's Child and Adams who was lying third overall but leading Class II.

Defending BOC champion Christophe Auguin, of France, whose Class-I yacht Seeta Calberon led the fleet by more than a day and a half into Sydney, was lying fourth overall and third in Class-I.

Crowd favourite, France's Isabelle Antissier, was a disappointed but stoical spectator who blew Christophe Auguin a kiss as he passed, waved to him and commented to fellow spectators: "I wish I was out there, but I'm glad to see Christophe doing so well."

Antissier was the only woman in the race but its clear leader until being disqualified following her spectacular rescue by helicopter from her crippled yacht in the Southern Ocean on New Year's morning.

Her unfortunate but courageous exploits won her Australian hearts.

## With the 49ers favoured by 18-20 points, many ask 'why play?'

MIAMI (AP) — Why play?

When one team, the San Francisco 49ers, is perhaps one of the greatest American pro-football teams in the last 30 years, and the other, the San Diego Chargers, is, well, lucky to even be here — why play?

Which is what a lot of people could be asking by the time the Super Bowl ends Sunday night at Joe Robbie stadium.

For by the second quarter, third at the latest, they may be watching reserve quarterback Elvis Grbac throwing to fellow backups Nate Singleton, Ed McCaffrey and Ted Popson — not long after starters Steve Young, Jerry Rice, John Taylor and Brent Jones have devoured the suspect San Diego defensive backfield.

By then, the only consolation may be that neither the Buffalo Bills nor Denver Broncos — two teams who have lost seven of the last eight Super Bowls by a combined score of 275-113 — are here.

The 49ers are playing for the NFL championship because they have been one of only two dominant teams in this season of parity. The other was the Dallas Cowboys, whom the 49ers beat 38-28 in the NFC title game two weeks ago, accomplishing the goal they set after losing to Dallas the previous two years.

This is a team of superstars seeking to become the first to win five Super Bowls, while extending the winning streak of the NFC to 11 NFL titles. All but two of the last 10 victories were by lopsided scores, an average of 38-15 — the same score by which the Niners beat the Chargers at San Diego Dec. 11.

They were picked to finish at the bottom of the AFC West division. Instead, they



San Francisco 49ers head coach George Seifert watches over his team during the 49ers final practice before Super Bowl XXIX being held Sunday, Jan. 29 at Miami's Joe Robbie Stadium.

won the division with an 11-5 record, but remained one of those second-line teams, in the "better-than-average" category with the Packers, Dolphins, Chiefs and Lions, among others.

And that's just one of the reasons the Chargers have spent the past week fielding questions about the margin of defeat.

"The only way to get respect is to go out and try to win the game," said Leslie O'Neal, the defensive end who is one of the few recognizable names on the Chargers' roster.

Thinking the unthinkable: What if 49ers lose the Super Bowl

In a week of endless interviews, only one question left

Carmen Policy momentarily speechless.

What if the San Francisco 49ers lose the Super Bowl? The team president gave the inquiring reporter a puzzled stare, his mouth open but silent.

Finally, Policy responded. "What did you say?" he asked.

It could happen, you know. San Francisco, the most lopsided favourite in Super Bowl history, could lose to the San Diego Chargers.

Policy thought about the unthinkable. "What would the reaction be?" he said. "It would be that we are, for the purposes of the 1994 season, an irrelevant team — because everything we did has absolutely no bearing whatsoever in terms of where we had to go."

That's why Sunday is so critically important, because it becomes the closure of all this effort that we've been talking about — everything we've done, and every dollar we've spent."

Whew. Talk about press-

ure. The assumptions, the expectations, the weight of this week's buildup to the big game are all on the 49ers.

"There's more pressure on their team than on us," San Diego quarterback Stan Humphries said. "Anything less than a win, and the season has gone for nothing for them."

The burden is particularly heavy on a player such as NFL most valuable player Steve Young, still striving to escape the shadow of four-time Super Bowl winner Joe Montana. Young will start in the league championship game for the first time.

The Chargers, by contrast, should be loose as lightning, because only they and their parents think they can win.

"I'm going to be in the locker room the day of the game cracking jokes," running back Natrone Means said. "We have no pressure on us. If we go out and lose by 50 points, everybody will say, 'that's what was supposed to happen.' If we win, then we shock the world."

When the kickoff finally arrives, it's possible that nervousness will undo the Chargers, rather than the 49ers. San Diego is the younger team, has never played in a Super Bowl and remembers being trounced by the 49ers 38-15 in December.

"We can't come out tight," Means said. "If we do like we did the first game, it'll be over in the first quarter."

The 49ers, meanwhile, deny that the pressure will cause them to buckle.

"There's been pressure on us in every game this season," linebacker Gary Plummer said. "We beat Atlanta 50-14, and there's criticism of our clock management, or the fact we dropped two passes, or that we had three penalties."

"It's a good feeling to know that you're expected to play a flawless game."

**Jordan Times**  
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## Donors to set aid budget for PNA

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Donor countries and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) will meet in the self-rule Gaza Strip on Monday and Tuesday to agree a financial aid package for autonomy during 1995, a World Bank official said.

Among the donors will be representatives of the United States and the European Union who will put forward proposals and try to match them with Palestinian requests, said Oden Knudsen, the bank's permanent official on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Knudsen voiced concern that last Sunday's double suicide bombing which killed 22 Israelis and led to the closure of the occupied territories would have "a negative impact on the effectiveness of international aid."

The bombers were both members of Islamic Jihad on the Gaza Strip.

"We risk having to invest more in creating immediate temporary jobs for the 50,000 Palestinians who are out of work rather than investing for the long term," he said.

The 50,000 Palestinians were employed in Israel until the closure prevented them from reaching their work.

After four bombings which have left 56 dead in the last 10 months, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has called for "total separation" between the Israeli and Palestinian populations to try to halt the violence.

The international community has pledged \$2.4 billion of aid to the Palestinians during the five-year period of autonomy, which began last May.

However, aid has been slow arriving and out of more

than \$700 million slated for the PNA last year only \$240 million was paid out, Mr. Knudsen said.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has warned Palestinian businesses against raising prices of basic products following Israel's closure of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, a PLO official has said.

Khaled Salam, economic adviser to Mr. Arafat, who heads the Palestinian National Authority running Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho, said those who ignored the order would be charged in court.

"The president (Arafat) has given strict orders to a committee he set up today (Saturday) to closely observe prices of basic products which have more than doubled in the past few days."

"This committee will be receiving people's complaints and will take anyone who tampers with prices to court and punish him by law," Mr. Salam said.

"The real revolution is not carried out by armies. It is by television and youth," he said.

On the computer equipment deal, Mr. Peres and his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa met with the heads of a handful of international computer firms at the Davos meeting to discuss the initiative.

Mr. Arafat noticed that immediately after the closure some traders had increased the prices of goods such as flour, sugar, cement, iron and animal fodder, he said.

"Some price increases went beyond 150 per cent and this is not consistent with the situation of our people, especially since the original prices at which these dealers and businessmen purchase the goods have not increased," he said.

## Israel seeks Mideast summit on education

DAVOS, Switzerland (Agencies) — Israel has proposed that a summit on education in the Middle East be held this year, in a bid to boost Israelis' and Arabs' awareness about each other's cultures, officials said Sunday.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, attending the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, was also promoting a deal to provide advanced computer technology for schools in Arab countries.

Mr. Peres gave no precise details of where and when the education summit might be held, but said it should take place in Europe because Arab leaders were more likely to agree to come.

He said the Davos meeting was a "first step" towards developing detailed proposals, and said he would also discuss it with WEF President Klaus Schwab.

"The real revolution is not carried out by armies. It is by television and youth," he said.

On the computer equipment deal, Mr. Peres and his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa met with the heads of a handful of international computer firms at the Davos meeting to discuss the initiative.

Mr. Peres told a small group of reporters that he had proposed that the European Union pledge 10 per cent of its planned five billion dollar investment in the Mediterranean region to the project.

European Commission President Jacques Santer, with whom he held talks, had received the proposal favourably, he said.

The companies involved were French group Bull, Italy's Olivetti, Siemens from Germany and Britain's ICL. Mr. Peres and Musa held talks with the heads of the firms, who are also in Davos.

Olivetti head Carlo de Benedetti said the companies were interested in the project for political and social reasons as well as business ones.

"We consider stability and peace and growth of knowledge in that region of the world is the essence not just for that region, for Europe, but for the world as a whole," he said.

The Davos meeting brings together 1,500 world political and business leaders for an annual six-day brainstorming session on the world's most pressing problems.

Mr. Peres said he proposed the computer initiative because Israel had similar programme and wanted to share the idea with the rest of the region. Mr. Musa said the idea was needed to take education in the Middle East into the 21st century.



Jordanian army engineers at work in an area in north ahead of taking control of 830-dunums of Jordanian land from Israel on Feb. 9. The steel bridge was built by the Royal

Engineering Corps after demolishing an old structure. The Jordanian border fence will be moved to near the trees in the background on Feb. 10 (Photo by Rana Hussein)

## Ground clear for Israeli pullout

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ON THE JORDANIAN-ISRAELI BORDER — The pillars marked with red and white are sometimes very close, and otherwise one needs a powerful binocular to spot them in the vastness of the desert. But there is no mistaking that they represent the newly-demarcated international borders to which Israel will withdraw starting today (Monday).

The first phase of the withdrawal will involve the area between the southern tip of the Dead Sea to the Wadi Araba crossing between Jordan and Israel. The second phase will begin on Feb. 9, involving a small piece of land in the north, and both phases will be completed on Feb. 10, as stipulated in the Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed on Oct. 26.

At some places in the south, the Israeli fence will be moved back 7.5 kilometres and at others only 100 metres, but there will be no relocating of the Israeli fence to the east. "The fence will be moved only westwards (towards Israel) throughout," said an officer, briefing the press one day ahead of the beginning of the withdrawal.

Flying low along the length of the Jordanian fence that will be dismantled and moved west, one can clearly see the extent of the hitherto Israeli encroachment into Jordanian land, whether on "security grounds" or quite simply because of the relatively better fertility of the land.

Jordanian officers and soldiers are obviously proud that Jordanian land is being returned to the Kingdom.

"It is a matter of dignity and honour," said a major from the Jordan's southern command. "We have regained every inch of our land and we are committed to protecting and defending it with our lives."

Brig-Gen. Mohammad Milkawi, commander of the southern region based in Aqaba, said his officers and men have been at work for many weeks ahead of Monday's formal handover of Jordanian land to Jordan by Israel.

"The Jordanian territory here is more than two kilometres deep westwards," he told journalists at a point about 100 kilometres north of Aqaba. "Slightly southwards the depth is three kilometres, and then 1.5 kilometres and so on. There is no uniform depth for the Jordanian land that Israel used to occupy. But we

know every inch of it."

In the north of Jordan, "Danger" mines," says signs in English, Arabic and Hebrew hanging on a thin wire fence that runs along a dirt track into a semi-circle-shaped plot of land thick with vegetation at a point where the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers meet.

Jordanian army engineers are busy putting the final touches to a steel bridge they have built across a canal that separated the 830-dunum plot that was occupied by Israel in 1950 but expected to be returned to Jordanian sovereignty on Feb. 9.

Mines have been cleared from the area where the dirt track is being turned into a usable road, but the area will not serve as a formal entry point between Jordan and Israel and will remain under the control of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Israeli-built electronic fences will be pushed back about a kilometre along the arch of the semi-circle on Feb. 9-10, the scheduled deadline for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Jordanian land.

Brigadier-General Mohammad Khalaf Injida, commander of the military unit in charge of the area, pointed to a spot about one kilometre from the canal

and said that was where Jordan had allowed Israelis to work on Jordanian land as part of the peace treaty.

Essentially, the farmland will be within the to-be-fenced-in Jordanian area and Israeli farmers would be allowed to come in and work in the farms during the day, said Brig-Gen. Injida.

Brig-Gen. Mansour Al Rashid, Jordan's delegate to the armistice commission with Israel, said special permits valid for one year were being issued to Israelis. "Only those with the permits issued by the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will be allowed to come in to the land during the day and they are not allowed to effect any change to the nature of the farmlands," he said.

The territory in the north was seized by Israel in 1950 in an area known as Baqura, where a hydro-electric project that was called the Rotenberg complex existed before the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

Proposal to build an "artificial lake and hotel complex" to attract tourists to the area as a joint Jordanian-Israeli project are being considered. Some reports have put the cost of the project at \$400 million.

## Suspected militants rob bank in Egypt

MINYA, Egypt (Agencies) — Suspected extremists armed with machine guns robbed a bank Sunday and made off with \$5,600, police said. It is believed to be the extremists' first bank heist to finance their campaign against the government.

In past years, Muslim militants have targeted jewellery shops owned by Christians, a minority in Egypt, and used the money and gold to finance their operations in the south.

Police said the rebels walked into the local agricultural bank in Abu Qurqas in Minya province, 220 kilometres south of Cairo. They fired warning shots in the air, and then stole 18,600 Egyptian pounds (\$5,600).

No one was hurt and no arrests were made. Police officials had said earlier the men stole 125,000 Egyptian pounds (\$37,500).

The robbery comes a day after 20 people, 16 of them suspected militants, were killed in southern Egypt in the bloodiest day of the nearly three-year-old confrontation with the government.

In the latest incident villagers shot dead a militant on Sunday who opened fire as they tried to capture him on Qena to hand him to police investigating about 15 attacks on police in Upper Egypt, the official news agency MENA said.

Police rounded up 16 militants from caves in Minya province, close to the marble quarry in the eastern desert where on Saturday they shot dead 12 fundamentalists in a seven-hour gunbattle.

In all 15 militants, two policemen, and two civilians were killed Saturday on the bloodiest day of clashes for three years, police said.

## Algerians stage pro-regime march, reject Rome plan

ALGIERS (Agencies) — An estimated 10,000 people — 150,000 according to state television — marched Sunday against an opposition peace plan and for the military-backed government fighting a Muslim fundamentalist rebellion.

Protected by a heavy force of police as well as ambulances and firetrucks, the crowd chanted in support of President Liamine Zeroual as well as for a "free and democratic Algeria."

"Army, people with you Zeroual," they said, carrying banners reading "no to terrorism" and "Yes to presidential elections," promised by Mr. Zeroual this year.

Another banner criticised talks this month between legal opposition parties and the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) that called for new talks with the government, the release of political prisoners and an end to an oppressive state of emergency.

Participants in the talks rejected Mr. Zeroual's planned elections.

"Meetings in Rome: plot against Algeria and Algerians," the banner read.

The march calmly dispersed and no incidents were reported.

The rebellion, sparked by the cancellation of January 1992 elections the FIS was expected to win, has left more than 15,000 people dead. Independent estimates

range up to 30,000.

So far, 76 foreigners have died in the conflict. No Americans are among the victims, but the U.S. State Department on Wednesday issued another warning against travelling to Algeria. It said those Americans without adequate security should leave.

On Saturday, attackers fatally wounded a member of the government's National Transition Council, the third deadly attack on a council member this month.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Salvation Army, the FIS' military wing, has called on its followers to intensify their attacks during the Holy Month of Ramadan that begins next week, the group's latest newsletter said.

The presidency on Thursday issued a memorandum giving legal parties two weeks to comment on plans for the presidential election. Foreign Minister Mohammed Salah Dembri said Thursday the vote could take place in July.

In Paris, hardline Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said he supported dialogue between the government and opposition but that France needed to continue providing economic assistance to Algeria.

He said he was skeptical the FIS's leaders would drop "the idea of an Islamic state."

"The question is whether there will be a return to the

Sharia (Islamic law), as the most obscurantist elements conceive it," Mr. Pasqua told French Television in a live interview. "That's to say a Muslim society of the 7th century."

Authorities in France, already home to several million North Africans, fear a wave of refugees from the former French colony if the fundamentalists take over. Algeria is also an important source of petroleum and trade for France.

Guerrillas attacked a school bus in Algeria, ordering the children out and then setting it ablaze, the independent Algerian newspaper Al Watan said on Sunday.

The children were "literally stupefied" to see one of their former teachers among the attackers, who made them leave their schoolbags in the vehicle before they got out, the paper said.

The guerrillas stopped the bus near Tipaza 60 kilometres west of Algiers, doused it with petrol and set fire to it.

Guerrillas fighting to topple the government have warned children and teachers to stay away from schools, colleges and universities, condemning state education as a prop to the army-backed authorities.

Officials say that more than 600 educational establishments have been attacked — and many of them destroyed — in the three-year-old conflict.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iraq urges Arabs not to sign NPT

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq on Sunday urged all Arab countries not to sign the renewal of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty if Israel refused to do the same, the official Iraqi News Agency reported. The agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted a foreign ministry spokesman as saying Arab states should not renew the treaty unless the "Zionist entity" signed it. Israel did not sign the original 1968 treaty, which came into effect in 1970 for a period of 25 years. The treaty, which was ratified by 170 countries, comes up for renewal at a conference starting in April. Egypt and some other Arab countries also demand that Israel should sign the treaty. The Iraqi spokesman criticised the U.N. Security Council for forcing Iraq to destroy all its weapons of mass destruction but "ignoring what relates to Israel's possession of nuclear weapons." The spokesman said Israel, which is widely believed to have nuclear weapons capability, was "a grave threat" to security "in the region and in the world." The treaty prescribes nuclear weapons for all by five acknowledged nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China.

### Mubarak sends message to Bahraini emir

DUBAI (AFP) — The emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, on Sunday received a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency reported. The message was passed on by Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Al Sherif who is in Bahrain for a two-day visit, the agency said without giving details of the message. Sheikh Isa paid tribute to Mr. Mubarak's support for Arab and Muslim causes and his role in restoring Arab solidarity, said GNA monitored in Dubai. Mr. Sherif also met with Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ben Salman Al Khalifa for talks on co-operation in the fields of information and broadcasting.

### PLO forces recruit Israeli informers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's security services are trying to turn Palestinians who collaborated with the Israelis before self-rule began last May, a newspaper reported on Sunday. They are targeting known Palestinian informers who have taken shelter in Israel and offering \$300 a month for unspecified "services rendered," the Yediot Aharonot said. The families of those who agree are allowed to return in safety to the occupied West Bank or the Gaza Strip. One such Palestinian double agent was caught near Tel Aviv last week and has been charged with spying. Uzi Landau, a right-wing deputy from the Likud Party, demanded an immediate halt to cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian security services following the report.

### Fan killed at Genoa-Milan match

GENOA (AP) — A 25-year-old fan was fatally stabbed in a stadium brawl before the Genoa-AC Milan soccer match Sunday, causing officials to suspend the game at half-time. The victim, identified as Vincenzo Spagnolo of Genoa, was knifed before kickoff. As word spread during half-time, Genoa fans threw bottles and other objects from the stands and chanted "murderers, murderers," the ANSA news agency said. Genoa's captain, Vincenzo Torrente, walked up to a section of angry fans and unsuccessfully pleaded for calm. Television broadcasters said rampaging fans outside Luigi Ferraris Stadium destroyed two buses. Others threw rocks at police trying to separate the two sides. Torrente and Milan's captain, Franco Baresi, each read statements announcing the game's suspension and asked the fans to leave calmly. Most of the 35,000 fans left, groups of other Genoa supporters returned and pounded on barriers separating them from Milan supporters. Some sprayed a fire hose into the crowd. It apparently was the first an Italian First Division game was cancelled for the death of a fan.

### Journalist arrested at Rabin's office

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Police arrested outside the prime minister's office a Palestinian television reporter who entered Israel from the West Bank on Sunday without a permit, witnesses said. Nabil Khatib, 37, who works for the Saudi-owned television channel Middle East Broadcasting Corporation, was taken away as Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin held a cabinet meeting. Israel sealed off the occupied territories after last Sunday's double suicide bombing which killed 21 people, a measure which is supposed to stop all Palestinians from entering the country, including Jerusalem. However, it is relatively easy to avoid roadblocks either by using minor roads and tracks or heading across country on foot. Police arrested 700 "illegal" Palestinian workers last week. They were fined \$150 each and sent back to the territories. Before the closure 50,000 Palestinians had work permits for Israel and an estimated 10,000-20,000 more worked "illegally" in the country.

### Israeli bus driver takes amorous detour

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli bus company has named a runaway sex drive for erratic service on one of its routes. A driver, suspected of slacking on the northern Haifa-Nazareth stretch, was filmed by a hidden camera on his vehicle taking a different sort of busman's holiday — detours to side roads where he would make love to his girlfriend. The company, which has suspended the driver, installed the camera after passengers along the route complained the bus often did not come to pick them up in the afternoon, a spokesman for Egged bus lines said on Sunday. "He was not providing the proper public service," the spokesman said.

## COLUMBIA

### At White House smoke but no fire

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fire engines screeched to the White House on Saturday to investigate a smoky odor, but found no fire. Secret Service spokesman Jaime Cagigas said the Fire Department responded to an alarm triggered in the East Wing of the White House. "There was no fire, just an odor of smoke," Mr. Cagigas said. The odor was traced to an exhaust fan that overheated and burned out, he said. In addition, telephone lines in a recreation area also burned out. The communication to and from the White House was not cut off. Mr. Cagigas said he couldn't explain the connection between the fan and phones. Tours of the White House went on undisturbed. President Bill Clinton was across the street at the time attending a welfare conference at Blair House, the presidential guest quarters.

### U.S. teachers still white and female

WASHINGTON (AP) — As America's schools become more racially mixed, teachers have remained predominantly white, female and, according to today's classroom, according to a report. To counter the trend, the deans of 89 university schools of education say they intend to revolutionize the way American teachers are taught. "The next generation of children will be children of colour — 45 per cent by the year 2000 — but 85 per cent of the teaching profession remains white and female," said Judith E. Lanier, education professor at Michigan State University. Organized into a consortium called the Holmes Group, the deans blame the faculty and curriculum of their own institutions for the racial and social imbalance between teachers and students. The universities, which together have educated an estimated 20 per cent of the nation's 3 million teachers, signed an agreement to recruit a new mix of racial and multicultural faculty. They also agreed to direct faculty away from research and publishing to schools aimed at making academic research more meaningful to teachers. "We are calling for... a new kind of faculty member as equally at home in a school as in the university," said Frank Murray, education college dean at University of Delaware and chairman of the Holmes Group. Fewer than 5 per cent of education faculty have ever taught in urban schools, the deans' report found.

### Russian official wants Iraq sanctions lifted

MOSCOW (R) — The leader of Russia's lower house of parliament called on Monday for all sanctions imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait to be lifted. "Ivan Rytkin believes that all economic and political consequences of the 'Persian' Gulf crisis should be removed as Iraq has accepted all U.N. and OSCE (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe) resolutions," the State Duma (lower house) press service said in a statement. The statement was issued after Mr. Rytkin and Saadi Mehdi Saleh, Iraq's parliamentary speaker, talks on lifting the sanctions.

### Shohat proposes dropping tax

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said Monday he would recommend that the government drop a hugely unpopular tax on share profits. Trading on Israel's stock exchange rose by 5.4 per cent after Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered a change to the law, which came into force on Jan. 1. The tax had depressed trading and provoked a row between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Shohat after the finance minister confessed it was unworkable. Mr.

### Italy cancels all sports events

ROME (AFP) — Italian sports officials on Monday decided to cancel all sporting events next Sunday to protest against the murder of a football fan and mass riots at a match in Genoa last weekend. The decision was announced by the head of the Italian National Olympic Committee, Mario Pescante, and Italian Football Federation President Antonio Marazziti. The sports officials ignored a government call for the football programme to continue on fears that provoking more violence (see below).

### U.S. to extend ban on nuclear tests

NEW YORK (AFP) — The United States has extended its moratorium on nuclear tests until an international treaty banning such testing comes into effect, a top administration official said Monday. Anthony Lake, the U.S. ambassador to the Carnegie Endowment for World Peace here, said a comprehensive test ban (CTB) treaty could be signed before Sept. 30, 1996.

### Israel destroys Pa

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli soldiers destroyed a Palestinian house on Saturday to prevent it from being used as a hideout for Palestinian militants who gathered to protest against the interior ministry. The house was located in the spot where the eight-story building was demolished in 1993. "We got no information about the demolition order," said the owner, Youssef al-Jarrah. "We got no information about the demolition order," said the owner, Youssef al-Jarrah. "We got no information about the demolition order," said the owner, Youssef al-Jarrah.

### King, Mubarak exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday received a telephone call from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The two leaders exchanged views on regional issues of concern to both Egypt and Jordan. King Hussein and Mr. Mubarak also discussed means of achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of international law and the principle of land for peace. The two leaders stressed the need to continue consultations and coordination between the two countries to serve Arab interests and promote the rights of the region's peoples.

### Trial of New York plots begins

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The trial of an Egyptian Muslim cleric and 11 other Muslims accused of plotting a terrorism campaign in the United States opened here Monday in a federal courtroom under tight security. The defendants, described as prosecution papers as members of the Islamic Jihad organisation, are accused of planning a "war of urban terrorism" to derail the Middle East peace process and weaken U.S. support of Israel.

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